

TURKEY

5th Signal Command

ECHO



DRAGON
WARRIORS

ISRAEL

IRAQ

IRAN



SAUDI ARABIA



"Signal Regiment at War."

Summer 2003

History in the Making

First Ever.... Activation of a Blue Force Tracking Facility that enabled simultaneous monitoring of In Transit Visibility and Battlefield Situational Awareness across multiple Combatant Commands' Areas of Operation (EUCOM and CENTCOM).

First Ever.... Use of "Digital Fountain" technology by deployed forces - which reduced the transfer time of very large files over IP networks.

First Ever.... Use of new technology in the Command and Control Vehicle (C2V) to provide C2 and reachback capability (Voice, Netmeeting, SIPR, and NIPR) on the move.

First Ever.... Use of bundled services to provide a quick reliable solution to the warfighters deployment communications requirements.

First Ever.... Use of Deployable Ku-Band Earth Terminal (DKET) providing increased Satellite communications between theaters to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

First Ever.... Use of Global System for Mobile communications (GSM), secure voice capability supporting the warfighters during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

First Ever.... Use of Deployable Communications Package-Tactical (DCP-T) in combat operations to support the 173rd Airborne Brigade deployment to Northern Iraq.



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From the Commander



Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett

"We are transforming the Army into this knowledge-based, network-centric force - putting into place the architecture of one Army network, nested in and augmenting the power of.... the global information grid....."

Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, CSA

Signal Soldiers on Point

Signal leaders, soldiers, and civilians of U.S. Army Europe, 5th Signal Command, 22nd Signal Brigade, 141st and 121st Divisional Signal Battalions, in partnership with other services and Joint components were, and continue to be, directly engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our European Signal Regiment deployed significant tactical capabilities into Iraq. The ability to establish satellite connectivity through the European Theater allowed operators to leverage 2nd Signal Brigade's regional bandwidth, switching capabilities, and satellite downlinks into Strategic Satellite Tactical and Commercial Entry Points. This reach-back extended the Global Information Grid and enabled the commander on the ground to see friendly and enemy movements, disperse forces, conduct split-based operations, reduce operational footprint, have in-transit visibility of supplies, personnel, and equipment, and exploit Information Dominance, to enhance decision-making and command and control. Crucial to the war effort was the ability for tactical

reach-back to leverage the Army forward-based, regional access to the Global Information Grid. During the rapid deployment from Central Region, 7th Signal Brigade deployed all tactical communications packages on multiple missions, in direct support of: 1st Infantry Division in Turkey; 69th Air Defense in Israel; Southern European Task Force (SETAF) in Italy; 173rd Airborne Brigade, airland operation into Northern Iraq; V Corps in Baghdad; United Kingdom and Polish Units in Iraq; and the Marines in the Republic of Georgia.

The soldiers, noncommissioned officers, officers, and civilians of the 5th Signal Command's Network Operations Command Center extended and operated the network. They optimized the network's reliability, flexibility, and security, to focus on providing the right information, to the right place, at the right time, in support of the warfighter. They communicated with tactical and operational headquarters, across European Command and Central Command, and linked those

deployed units to secure voice, video teleconferencing, servers, and critical databases in Europe and the United States.

Our Army Transformation vision identified the requirements for a Joint Warfighter Information Network and set conditions for the future. Our experience in war re-validated the demand for: Command and Control on the Move, Battlefield Situation Awareness, Reach-Back Capabilities, Distributed Protected Networks, Multi-Band Satellite, Information Assurance, Network Operations, and Information Dissemination Management. The European Signal Regiment leaders, soldiers, and civilians have performed magnificently and continue to do so. They are dedicated "Patriots" focused on mission. Our commitment to leverage the experience and lessons learned during Operation Iraqi Freedom will enhance our Army Transformation, and will enable the U.S. Army Europe, Freedom's Expeditionary Force, An Army Forward; Any Mission, Anywhere.

Dragon Warriors!



From the Command Sergeant Major



Command Sgt. Maj.
Donna Mitchell

"It is not enough to fight, it is the spirit we bring to the fight that decides the issue. It is morale that wins the victory."

... Gen. George C. Marshall

Honored to Serve with the Best

Throughout our command our leaders, soldiers, and civilians have directly impacted the success of accomplishing our mission. I assumed duties as the CSM as we conducted our final preparations for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Everyone played a hand in hard, realistic training enhancing our strategic network infrastructure by extending its capabilities into the area of operation.

As I traveled around 5th Signal Command, I had the opportunity to visit and witness all the great things that our organization participated in and supported.

The Battle Staff operated on a 24-hour-a-day basis providing up-to-date situational awareness and support with coordination, resources, and information.

Fort to Port missions provided communication capabilities at Antwerp and Rotterdam. It was a great opportunity for the individuals who participated in

those missions, providing seamless communications capabilities in support of the loading and unloading of equipment.

Communications rehearsals prior to the deployments ensured teams were certified and their equipment was working. The training built confidence and assurance for success.

Family support groups pulled together and prepared for the deployment. Rear-detachment personnel developed standing operating procedures and ensured the families left behind were informed and ready.

Soldiers and civilians deployed to Turkey, Israel, Italy, Republic of Georgia, Kuwait, and Iraq. They provided seamless communications for the warfighter. Although some have returned safely home, we still have a large number of soldiers deployed. 'Welcome Home' ceremonies were held for those who returned and they received acco-

lates for their hard work.

Soldiers continue to provide safety to our communities and families by providing Force Protection. Our 'Tiger Team' continues to assist our guard points throughout the Mannheim and Darmstadt communities.

The contributions and sacrifices of the members of this command during this time are greatly appreciated and contributed to our success. We were very fortunate not to have any casualties and that attributes to our focus on safety and training.

Each and every one of you should be very proud of your hard work and accomplishments; they do not go unnoticed.

Please keep our deployed soldiers in your thoughts and prayers.

I am very proud to be a member of this great command.

Dragon Warriors!

5th Signal Command

By Mr. Danny Johnson

MANNHEIM, Germany -- "I pledge my commitment to you as a leader to ensure we are trained and combat ready, while guaranteeing the warfighter has the required communications for assured command and control", said Brig. Gen. Carroll Pollett as he took command of 5th Signal Command and responsibilities as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G6, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army from Maj. Gen. Marilyn Quagliotti, March 4th at the Sullivan Sports Arena in Mannheim. "Our team, 5th Signal Command" Pollett said "has an incredible reputation as a powerful team of talented soldiers and civilians who have a mission focus and 'Can Do' attitude."

Maj. Gen. James Hylton, commander, Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, Ft. Huachuca, AZ, did the honors of passing the col-



Photo by Sgt. Jan Allende

Brig. Gen. Pollett accepts 5th Signal Command's Colors from Maj. Gen. James Hylton, commander, NETCOM.

ors from Quagliotti to Pollett. Pollett comes to 5th Signal Command from the Defense Information Systems Agency in Arlington, VA where he served as Commander/Deputy Director of Operations.

Quagliotti departs Mannheim to the Defense Information Systems Agency, Arlington, VA where she will serve as Commander/Deputy Director of Operations. During her farewell remarks she said "Thanks to this great team of staff and commanders, we are better postured to support deployed forces, to defend our networks against attacks, to identify critical reachback sites, and to deploy in communications packages configured to support the warfighter."

Brig. Gen. Pollett is married to the former Dayna Jones and has two sons, Derek and Brian.

7th Signal Brigade

Story and photo by Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

MANNHEIM, Germany -- The 7th Signal Brigade welcomed Col. Jennifer L. Napper to its ranks in a change of command ceremony at Sullivan Parade Field Feb. 20. Napper takes over leadership of the brigade from Col. Susan S. Lawrence,

"What a great day to be a soldier in the United States Army," Napper said at the ceremony. "I am honored to serve as commander of this outstanding organization." She also expressed confidence in their preparation for a possible deployment.

"I know you are trained and ready for whatever mission we are

given. I look forward to serving you wherever the needs of our great Army and country take us," she said.

Napper most recently served as the deputy chief of staff for personnel at 5th Signal Command. She takes command of the 7th Signal Brigade at a time of great activity for the unit. The brigade is currently set to deploy in

support of possible military contingencies.

Lawrence departed to the Pentagon for a position on the Joint Staff. "I know the 7th Signal Brigade will go on to do great things under her command."

Napper is married to Mark Tyson Napper and has two daughters Barbara Elizabeth, and Rebecca Elise.



ROAD TO WAR: The Planning Phase

“Visualizing the Plan and Rehearsing the Concept”

By Maj. Bernadette M. Hanley

MANNHEIM, Germany -- Recognizing that the U.S. would soon be at war in Iraq, the Army Signal Regiment in Europe began intensive preparation to provide communications support.

Dual-hatted as the United States Army Europe G6 and the Commanding General, 5th Signal Command, Maj. Gen. Marilyn A. Quagliotti hosted a C4 Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill for V Corps and the 22nd Signal Brigade commander, Col. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr., to build the support Smith would need from units and agencies across the Army. The review of network planning ideas was the primary purpose of the event, but Quagliotti also stressed introductions and strengthening existing relationships among the attendees.

Quagliotti stood on the giant map, covering the entire gym floor, to welcome the crowd. It was mid-November 2002 and the warfighters of Central Command and European Command had shifted into the planning mode to prepare for a potential war with Iraq.

Quagliotti recognized early that providing seamless command, control, communications, and computer (C4) support to multiple combatant commanders was complex and needed a team of communicators. They were to plan and execute across both geographic and technical boundaries.

Col. Bryan Ellis, G3, 5th Signal Command, envisioned an event to bring commanders, planners, and technical experts to the map to

capture, analyze, and then resolve the critical issues. As the idea gained momentum, officer and noncommissioned officer ROC Drill planners were flooded with requests for invita-

**WARFIGHTERS’
STAFF INTO PLANNING
MODE FOR OPERATION
IRAQI FREEDOM.**

tions. Requests came from all over the world including the United Kingdom, our Coalition partner.

On November 15, local attendees from V Corps, 21st Theater Support Command, European Command, Navy, U.S. Marines, United States Air Forces in Europe,

and DISA-Europe started arriving. Shortly after that CONUS participants arrived from Headquarters, Department of the Army, NETCOM/11th Signal Brigade, 335th Theater Signal Command, and the U.S. Army Signal Center.

Tip of the spear communicators from the Joint Special Operations Task Force, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), 101st Airborne Division, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), 1st Cavalry Division, 35th Signal Brigade, and 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment also joined the group.

Over the next four days, the group would argue and analyze aspects of the plan, reach agreements, and identify issues to resolve. Areas

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Photo by Sgt. Jan Allende

From left to right (seated at table): Maj. Larry G. Coblentz, G6; Col. Rock Schmidt, chief of staff, 5th Sig.Cmd.; Col. Hubert Newman, commander, 2nd Sig. Bde.; Col. Bryan Ellis, G3; Maj. Gen. Marilyn A. Quagliotti, commander, 5th Sig. Cmd.; Command Sgt. Maj. Donna K. Mitchell, command sergeant major, 5th Sig. Cmd.

From left to right (back row): Lt. Col. William F. Sherod, commander, 52nd Sig. Bn.; Lt. Col. Lewis Naumchik, commander, 43rd Sig. Bn.; Lt. Col. Randall Bland, commander, 39th Sig. Bn.; Lt. Col. Michelle Fraley, commander, 69th Sig. Bn.; Lt. Col. Darrell Fountain, commander, 102nd Sig. Bn.

509th Answers the Call in Preparation for Northern Iraq

'Agile Response', a Non-combatant Evacuation rehearsal

Story and photo by Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

LONGARE JOINT TASK FORCE, Italy -- The Longare Joint Task Force complex in Italy was recently the scene of much activity as the 509th Signal Battalion participated in "Agile Response" November 11 - 23. The two-week rehearsal was designed to test the effectiveness of a joint task force in a noncombatant evacuation scenario. Key to such a large and complex mission was communications capability and the signal support provided by the 509th. This helped make the exercise a success.

"It's been great, a tremendous learning experience," said Lt. Col. James Lamkin, 509th Signal Battalion commander.

The rehearsal involved units from the Southern European Task Force, including service members from all branches and several from foreign militaries. The challenge of establishing communications for all of these elements was left primarily to the soldiers and civilians of the 509th.

"There are always challenges," said Lamkin. "The important thing is to keep a clear head and work to overcome those challenges. These folks have done very well."

The 509th provided a variety of communications support, including phone lines, computer links, secure and non-secure

Internet access, and e-mail and video teleconferencing capability.

Sgt. 1st Class Terence Green said his soldiers worked long hours and "really stepped up to the plate" to provide vital support.

"These soldiers take pride in what they do, and in this mission they've even taken on more than what their mission is," added 1st Lt. Christine Stevens, HHD commander.

"If this were a real operation, they'd be ready to go."...Canadian Army Maj. Michael Turney.

Sgt. Bradon Hart, satellite systems team chief, HHD, helped set up the satellite that provided the links for the data banks.

"We had to set up in a hard-to-reach area," he said. "They were not optimal conditions, but we worked at it and got a beautiful shot."

In working through the challenges, Hart said he got a lot out of this event.

"We came up with creative solutions and learned to overcome our problems," he said. "We can apply this downrange, now that we know we've done it here. This definitely helps our readiness."

Working alongside service members at the rehearsal were several civilians. William Todd Harlow, a computer specialist with the battalion's network service center, helped run the servers that allowed participants the use of e-mail.

"This has been a great learning experience," he said. "You can read about things, but here you're



509th soldiers set up the satellite system at the Longare Joint Task Force complex to provide the communications link for the exercise.

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Opening 'Gateway' to Freedom

'Freedom Fury' rehearsal tests new equipment, concept in tactical communications

Story and photos by Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

The 7th Signal Brigade used Freedom Fury rehearsal to test new technology in preparation for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The brigade validated the new Gateway Communications Package (GCP) concept. The exercise was also an opportunity to tie in various elements of the brigade and get soldiers working together.

"It was very good," said Lt. Col. Kenneth Harrison, deputy commander, 7th Signal Brigade. "Soldiers met the challenge and demonstrated they were highly motivated and well-trained."

The highlight of the exercise was the implementation of a Gateway Communications Package that served as a single "STEP" (strategic-to-tactical entry point) interface. Traditionally, communications support is provided through

Gateway communications package provided units reachback for vital C2.

packages interfacing directly with a STEP facility. During the rehearsal,

the GCP in the field served as the equivalent of the STEP interface, providing communications services to multiple locations.

Capt. Raymond Butler, commander, Company C, 72nd Signal Battalion, explained that the GCP shelter was built by a team of communicators of the brigade's operations section and tested for the first time. Despite the technical challenges, he said soldiers got a lot out of the experience.

"Their performance was absolutely outstanding," said Butler.



Soldiers have a chance to test tropospheric communications systems during the event.



Staff Sgt. Mark Brust maintains the Gateway Communications Package set up at Switch Park.

"Every member of the 7th Signal Brigade has risen to the challenge. We've had to learn that we're not only responsible for providing services to local subscribers, but also grasp the concept of providing Gateway links to extension packages. You're forced to look at the mission from a totally different perspective."

One of the other objectives of the exercise was to provide real world customer support.

Coinciding with Freedom Fury were two command post rehearsals, one involving the 1st

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"Freedom Fury"

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Infantry Division in Wuerzburg, Germany, and another with the 21st Theater Support Command in Baumholder, Germany. The brigade was able to provide these customers with the type of communications services that they would need on a real world mission. By having actual customers on the other end of the network, soldiers were able to get instant feedback on the services they provided.

Harrison said this "opportunity training" worked well for

Brigade provides communications required for a war against Iraq.

at all levels," he said. "I get to see what I have to work on, and it gives my soldiers a chance to train on new equipment. We should do more of these in the future."

For Spc. Nathan Wendland, small extension node operator, Company C, 44th Signal Battalion, the exercise was just what he need-

said Farley. "Instead of segmented training where we have one team focusing on one aspect, here we put it all together and get better feedback."

Farley's soldiers agreed that the exercise helped instill the "one team" concept in the brigade.

"It helps you communicate and coordinate better with other people," said Spc. Tyrone Stroud, network systems operator-maintainer, Company C, 44th Signal Battalion. "Everyone's been helping each other out, trying to get mission ready. It's definitely one team, one fight."

As the brigade packed up all its equipment, Harrison said it's still all about soldiers doing the mission.



2nd Lt. Gwendolyn Hodge helps set up at Funari Barracks at the beginning of the rehearsal.

the brigade as well as for the customers, who were pleased with the support.

"The customer's point of view is what counts," he added.

For soldiers, the exercise was an important opportunity to gain confidence in their equipment as well as in themselves.

Sgt. Jeffrey Flora, satellite communications team chief, 72nd Signal Battalion, said he was able to see the full capabilities of his tactical satellite system.

"This has been a huge learning experience for everybody

ed to learn about his equipment and his job.

"For us to get an idea of where our equipment stands, we really needed to connect to the network," he said. "This helps us out a lot."

Capt. Gary Farley, commander, Company C, 44th Signal Battalion, was set up with his unit at Veterans Way on Sullivan Barracks. He said the exercise was of great benefit because it got the brigade working together.

"It's a great opportunity working with another battalion,"

"With all the new equipment we have, it's no good without the soldiers," he said. "It still comes down to a soldier in a pair of boots operating and maintaining that equipment."

Editor's Note: Fitzgerald is with the 7th Signal Brigade.



Sgt. Billy Ward and his fellow soldiers raise a tent in preparation for Freedom Fury.

Training and Equipping the Republic of Georgia Military

'Providing Communications for the U.S. Marines'

By 1st Lt. Jason C. Murray

SULLIVAN BARRACKS, MANNHEIM, Germany (June 2, 2003) - Soldiers from 44th Signal Battalion have supported the Georgia Train and Equip Program (GTEP) for more than a year. The most recent deployment was with the U.S. Marines.

The purpose of GTEP is to train and equip selected Georgian military units in order to enhance regional stability. Originally a U.S. Army Special Forces mission, the 44th Signal Battalion remained to

Internet protocol router networks, and video teleconferencing capabilities to the Marine Corps, the leadership of the signal detachment also trained 558 soldiers of the Georgian 16th Mountain Infantry Battalion in basic military communications.

Outside of their assigned mission, signal soldiers assisted in communications training. The easy part is teaching the Georgians to properly configure the radios. The tricky part is using an interpreter to determine whether or not they are using the proper procedures you've just taught.

Support to other real world missions continue along with Operation Iraqi Freedom.

provide quality long-haul communications for GTEP when the mission was assumed by U.S. Marine Forces Europe. In addition to providing excellent dedicated subscriber network service, secure and non-secure

Tactical satellite soldiers Sgt. Michael Manwell, Spc. Alonzo Madero, and Spc. Jared King used their skill to install and maintain several Armed Forces Network and commercial satellite antennas.

As the sole mechanic on the camp, Sgt. Wallace Maxwell repaired vehicles and generators for both Marine Forces Europe and the 67th Forward Surgical Team.

Finally, noncommissioned officer in charge Staff Sgt. Brian Jacobs, along with the information systems team consisting of NCOIC Sgt. Abelardo Perez, Sgt. James Copas, and Pfc. Gabriel Dominguez, made several trips to the Georgian Ministry of Defense, as well as the U.S. Defense Attaché Office to Republic of Georgia, to provide information systems installation and technical assistance.

After installing new U.S.-provided computers at the Georgian equivalent of the Pentagon, Copas said, "I definitely got the impression of a nation in transition."

Editor's Note: Murray is with the 7th Signal Brigade.



Above: Pfc. Dominguez running cable for reinstallation of telephone lines on AOB 060.



Left: Sgt. Perez and Sgt. Copas running cable for the same reinstallation.

Right: Sgt. Perez, Spc. King, and Spc. Madero setting up the 8-foot dish to be installed on the new platform.



Juniper Cobra

'U.S. Israel Bi-Annual Exercise Transforms to Wartime Combined Task Force'

By Capt. Kenneth Haynes

In late December 2002 soldiers of Company A, 72nd Signal Battalion, loaded equipment and prepared for movement to Israel in support of a 30-day multinational exercise known as "Juniper Cobra."

Juniper Cobra is a bi-annual joint services exercise involving the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Missile Defense Agency, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) Air Force, and IDF Navy. It validates the ability to provide a rapid response PATRIOT ballistic missile defense in the region to safeguard our allies.

However, Juniper Cobra would be different this time because the U.S. was preparing for war with Iraq.

Signal Battalion transforms to war - provides real time air defense data to theater.

The mission tested the world's first "Two Tier" Ballistic Missile Defense Network. As a result of the 1991 war, Israel developed and employed the ARROW theater ballistic missile defense system designed to engage inbound missiles at high altitudes. In contrast, the U.S. PATRIOT system was designed to engage lower-level threats. Operating the two systems would provide two layers of defense for the theater.

Supporting Juniper Cobra '03 (JC03) proved to be a test of the 7th Signal Brigade's recent reorganization. For the first time, all the resources to support a large joint mission came from a single company: two data packages, a coalition net-



Antenna and camouflage.

work special circuits team, a forward network support center, and unit command and control cell.

In all, 40 soldiers deployed to the greater Tel-Aviv area dispersed over seven base campsites.

At the conclusion of the JC03 Feb. 7, 2003, the Joint Chiefs of Staff decided to hold the 700 soldiers, airmen, and Marines in place. Everyone watched the news anxiously and began weeks of intensive NBC (nuclear, biological, and chemical) training combined with missile defense drill. If war was inevitable, the command was going to ensure the service members were ready.

Joint Task Force (JTF) Cobra was officially activated March 5 and transitioned to a wartime footing in support of the nation of Israel to deter and defend against ballistic missile attack from Iraq. It also disseminated real time air defense data throughout the theater.

JTF Cobra consisted of elements of Headquarters, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, the USS Mitschner, the USS Porter, four batteries from 5-7th ADA Battalion, the

19th Maintenance Company, Company A, 92nd Military Police Battalion, Company A, 72nd Signal Battalion, the 66th Military Intelligence Group, and various augmentees from throughout the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Army Europe.

Operation Iraqi Freedom began on March 19, 2003. The training conducted during and after JC03 paid off. The only difference was working and living in the NBC mission-oriented protective posture (MOPP) level-two environment using the new Joint Service Lightweight

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"Juniper Cobra"

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Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST) chemical suit and not to mention the live missiles loaded on the launchers.

Information Technology data services proved to be the critical link that allowed the "Two Tier" defense of the task force to work. Radar data from the U.S. Navy cruiser USS Mitschner, early warning data from North American Aerospace Defense Command, and Global Command and Control Systems data was streamed over both U.S. secure Internet protocol router and coalition data networks to combined forces throughout Southwest Asia.

The task force operations staff implemented secure real-time chat services with counterparts in Turkey, Kuwait, and Iraq. This proved vital to sharing and analyzing intelligence regarding potential launch sites and quickly dispelling false alarm indicators. Also a new network software package called JADE was quickly implemented that provided a real-time three-dimensional picture of all land,



Filling sand bags.



Hooking up satellite van.



Sitting inside of an Israeli Scud Bunker

sea, and air activity in Southwest Asia's battle space.

The non-secure Internet protocol router network (NIPRNET), Defense Switched Network (DSN), and video teleconferencing (VTC) became lifelines for the soldiers of the task force. The availability of these resources allowed families to stay in touch and current news reports to be disseminated. Some soldiers were even able to share some special moments with family and friends at home. In one instance, Maj. Gen. Stanley

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"Juniper Cobra"

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Green, JTF commander, was able to promote Staff Sgt. Benjamin Minty of Company A, 72nd Signal, to Sgt. 1st Class while Minty's family looked on and participated over the VTC.

"It meant much more to have the family there," Minty said. "For a few minutes I wasn't deployed and we could celebrate together."

It was a truly remarkable deployment for Company A, 72nd Signal Battalion. A "company package" had never deployed completely by air in the brigade's history.

Reliability of services exceeded 98 percent throughout the deployment with the first-ever global data streaming services and workstation collaboration solutions between two unified commands. No information security incidents occurred and thousands of miles were driven without any accidents or injuries.

To top it off, 1st Platoon's Light Package engineered the first-ever strategic tactical switch multiplexed unit link into the PATRIOT's SMU voice network. It also extended worldwide DSN voice services to five

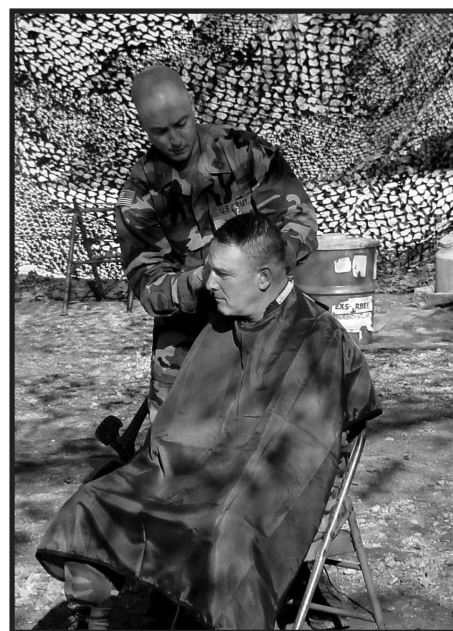
"Success with new technology a key element in deterrence."

other base camps without using any additional signal equipment - far exceeding the seven-phone limit of the line termination unit they had brought.

Both the Juniper Cobra exercise and JTF Cobra were highly successful and accomplished all mission objectives.

"We simply would not have been as successful without you," Green told Company A, 72nd Signal Battalion soldiers during an awards presentation. "Your professionalism

and support has been superb. The reliability and consistency of the services you brought were the best I have ever seen. I never had to worry about talking to the people we needed to talk to. It is something you should be proud of and I'm equally proud to have served with you."



Maj. Gen. Stanley Green gets a hair trim from Sgt. 1st Class James Penton. Penton's barber skills were highly sought after by members of the JTF Cobra HQs. Photo by: Sgt. Stuart Cox, Company A, 72nd Sig. Bn.



Soldiers of Company A receiving information while on mission.

The JTF operation ended April 17 in a lavish ceremony on the shores of the Mediterranean. The preparations, hard work, and sacrifices made at the beginning with certification in November had paid off. The bonds formed with the soldiers of A Company, 69th ADA, and all participants of the JTF will endure for a long time to come.

Editor's Note: Haynes is the Commander, Company A, 72nd Signal Battalion.

6981st Trains Soldiers for Deployment

"Civilian Support Group and Operation Iraqi Freedom"

By 2nd Signal Brigade Staff

MANNHEIM, Germany -- Rising to any challenge has been a hallmark of the 6981st Civilian Support Group (CSG). As the U.S. Army Europe "rightsized" in the early 1990's, the 6981st was there supporting the warfighters in providing cabling infrastructure to new installations and removing lines from closing sites.

They were also there supporting massive troop movements during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and did the same thing to assist units deploying to Bosnia and Kosovo. The 6981st has always been the U.S. Army Europe's "go to" organization whenever there was a need to provide communications infrastructure needs to the warfighter. The same was true during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

In late 2002, the leadership of the 6981st had been alerted that their unique services might be called upon to support OIF. The mission would most likely be providing vital communication infrastructure to insolated areas of southern Turkey along the Iraqi border.

It was envisioned that the logistics highway provided by the 21st TSC would stretch through Turkey to the forward edge of the northern front. It was also thought that this area of Turkey would likely be a focal point for refugee operations as a result of the war. Anticipating these plans, the 6981st canvassed their local national employees for volunteers for what

could have been a long and dangerous mission. Over one-third of the staff stepped up to the challenge.

Going through the same deployment process that any other U.S. Army Europe unit did, the volunteers checked out their NBC

Rotterdam, and on to the forward staging areas in Turkey. With the uncertainty of deploying local nationals, the unit undertook a large-scale training program with soldiers from the 7th Signal Brigade. Here they brought their

years of experience to hands-on training with heavy-duty earthmoving equipment such as the backhoe, the trenching "rocket," and even more sophisticated items as the Siemens fiber cable splicing kit.

While the unit never deployed, for over one month the members remained "oncall," ready to move out at a moment's notice. At the same time, their expertise again proved invaluable as

they continued to provide crucial deployment exercise support to V Corps as the command prepared for war. Under the leadership of Major Heinrich Nonnenmacher and Captain Guenter Alberti, the members of the 6981st proved once again they were trained and ready to support the total team mission.



Soldiers from the 72nd and 44th Sig. Bn. receive training on different types of construction equipment in preparation for deployment to the Mideast.



1st Lt. Tracy C. Williams, Headquarters Company, 7th Sig. Bde., receives instructions on operating a TB 15 Backhoe from Ludwig Weindler of the 6981st Civilian Support Group, 2nd Signal Brigade.

equipment, took shots, updated their personnel records, and secured their Geneva Convention cards.

Then, working with soldiers of the 7th Signal Brigade, they identified the equipment and materials needed downrange, and prepared them for shipment to

Extending Strategic Communications to the Warfighter

Written by 5th Signal Command Staff

Through extensive hand-in-hand planning and coordination, the 2nd and 7th Signal

Both systems provide similar voice and data capabilities to the warfighter.

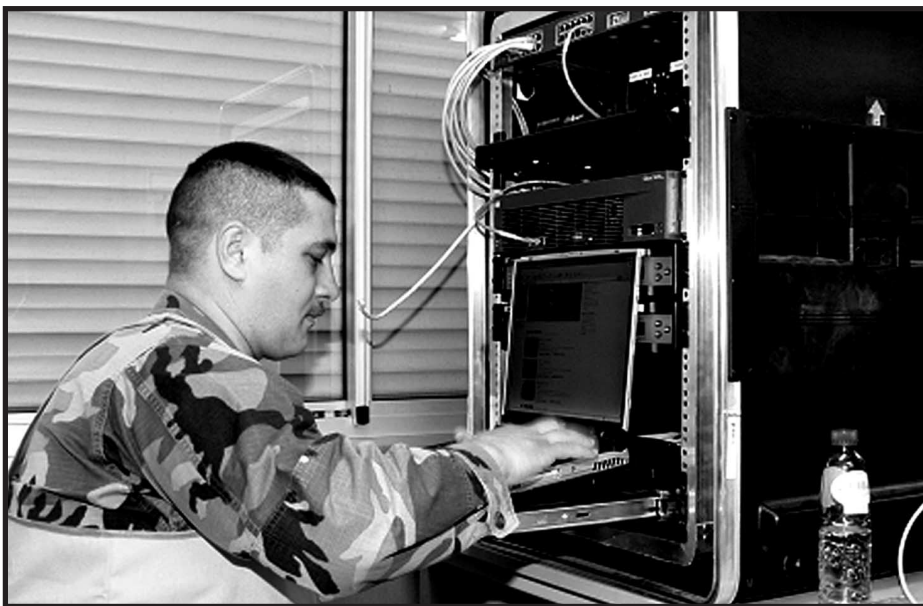
The DCP-S is a modular palletized capability that allows

us to extend the GIG and DISN services. This capability is used by the 2nd Sig. Bde. when quality commercial infrastructure exists as the transport medium. For Operation Iraqi Freedom, the DCP-S was mainly used in the Fort to Port operations.

The DCP-T used by the 7th Sig. Bde. is a tactical capability that supports ARFOR or JTF headquarters. This capability is designed to be deployed as quick as possible into use in tactical operations.

This system can be either a light or heavy package depending on the size of the supported unit. It is deployed with its own transport medium, normally in the form of satellite communications.

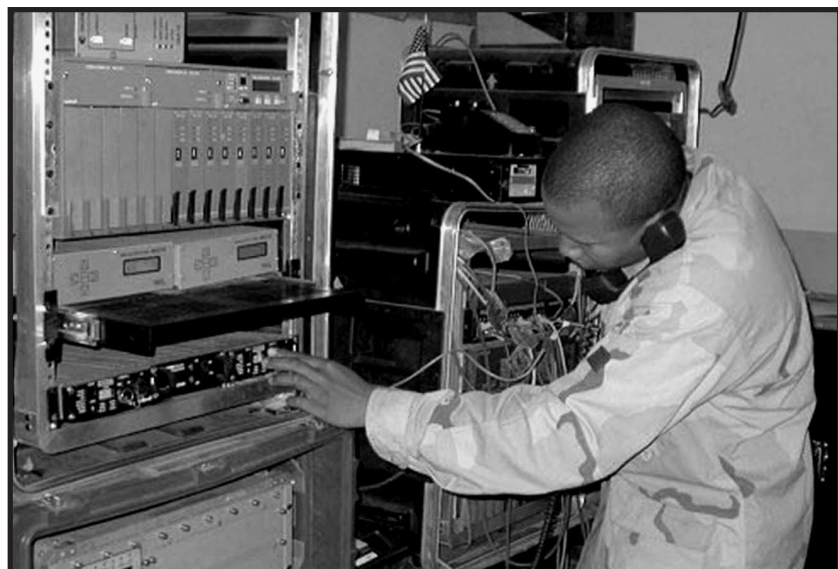
Both the DCP Strategic and Tactical packages provide secure and non-secure voice, video teleconferencing, and e-mail services. The DCP-T also provides tactical voice connectivity.



2nd Signal Brigade's DCP-S in operation.

Brigades worked together to provide the warfighter reliable and state-of-the-art communications. The concerted effort between the brigades allowed the deployed warfighter to shoot, move, and communicate.

Both brigades used Deployable Communications Packages (DCPs). The difference was 2nd Signal Brigade used the DCP-Strategic (S) and the 7th Signal Brigade used the DCP-Tactical (T).



Spc. Costner stands in front of a DCP-T in Northern Iraq.

Vital Links between Ports, U.S. Army Europe, and CENTCOM

2nd Signal Brigade's supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom

By 1st Lt. Nick Inge

MANNHEIM, Germany -- A primary mission of 2nd Signal Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom was establishing and sustaining U.S. Army Europe communications and information infrastructure for deployed combatant commanders.

The "Brigade of Excellence" played an integral role in the vital communications link between Iraqi-based warfighters and their command and control elements located in the European theater. The soldiers and

civilians of 2nd Signal Brigade were critical elements of communications between U.S. Army Europe and Central Command (CENTCOM) locations possible. The brigade's presence was most evident during Fort to Port operations to move U.S. Army Europe elements to the CENT-

"I knew that once we could reach Europe it would all be OK!"...

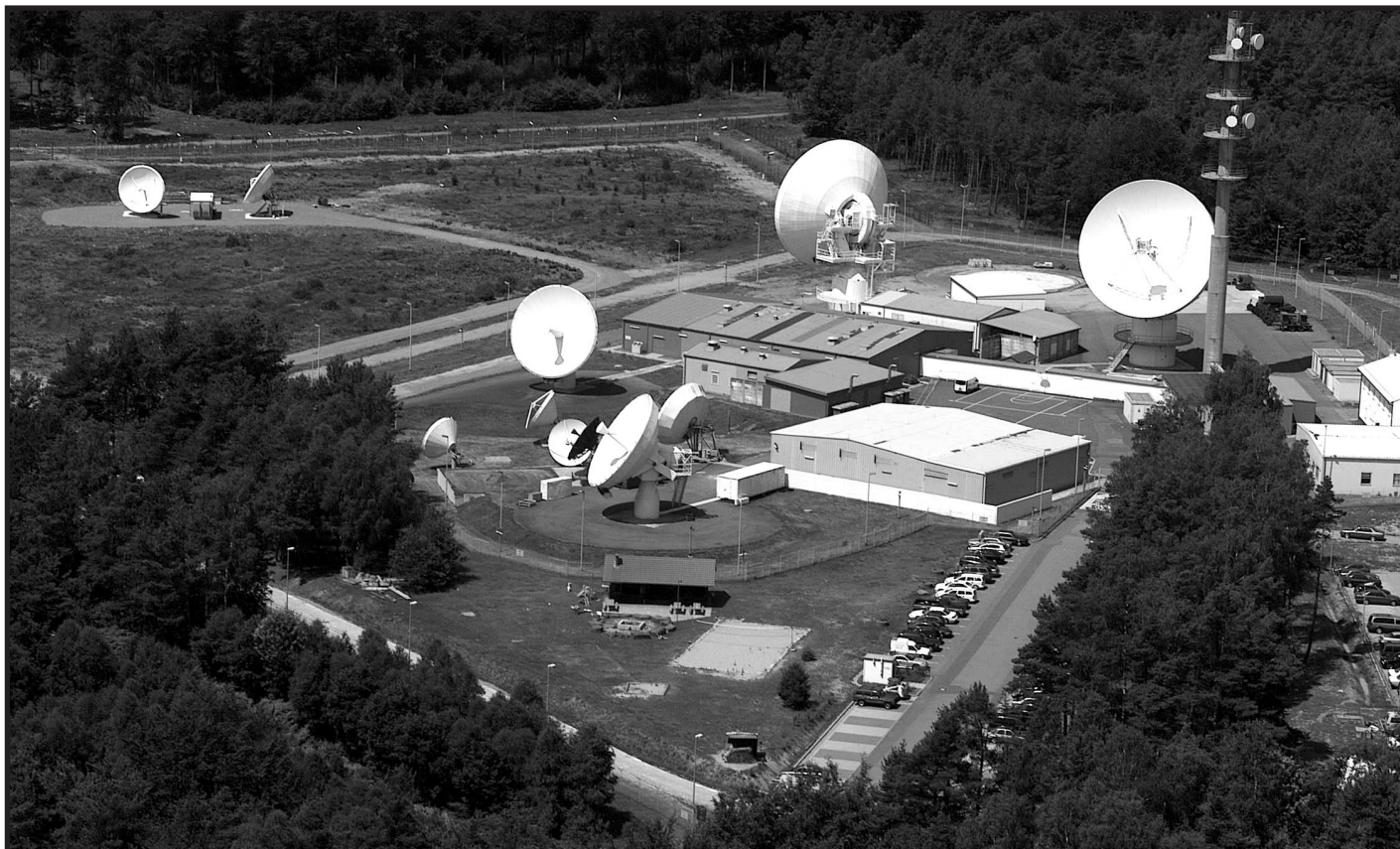
Brig. Gen. Dennis Moran

COM area of responsibility (AOR), in the daily Battle Update Brief (BUB) Video Teleconference (VTC), and in

providing tactical "reach-back" capabilities to deployed units via Standardized Tactical Entry Point (STEP) facilities.

Fort to Port was the operation to move V Corps units from home station to their respective seaport(s) of embarkation (SPOEs) with each unit's final destination being the CENTCOM AOR. Each of the units being deployed traveled to their respective deployed location via the 21st TSC's logistical highway. Along this logistical highway, the 21st TSC strategically placed installation staging areas (ISAs), convoy support centers (CSCs), deployment processing centers (DPCs), barge sites, and life support areas (LSAs) to facilitate the move of each deploying unit to and through the individual SPOEs. Using

Continued on next page



The Landstuhl site with the new Deployable Ku-Band Earth Terminal.



V Corps equipment ready for shipment at the port in Antwerp, Belgium.

Photo by VISE Media

“Vital Links”

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the Deployable Communications Package-Strategic (DCP-S) and its state-of-the-art voice over data capabilities, 2nd Signal Brigade was the sole provider of communications and information management support at each of these sites.

Services included video teleconferencing (VTC), Army Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (ASIPR) access, Army Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router

Network (ANIPR) access, secure voice communication, and the always indispensable telephone. Providing these mediums allowed the 21st to focus on logistical operations while the warfighter mentally prepared for the mission ahead.

The daily BUB VTC, both before and at the peak of combat operations in Iraq, was a challenge in

itself. Participants included: HQs USAREUR, SETAF/173d BDE, the 21st TSC, 5th SIG CMD, the 7ATC, HQs IID, HQs EUCOM, TF North, the 1 AD, HQs DA, ARFOR-Turkey Forward, ARFOR-Turkey Main, ARFOR-Turkey Port, and the 201st FSB. The daily VTC allowed senior

flag officers to direct, review and control troop movement within the theater and in the combat regions. The VTC also permitted commanders to directly

communicate with subordinate units, which let the warfighters know they were supported by the chain of command at every turn. This direct communication bolstered subordinate units' sense of purpose, esprit de corps, and well-being. Participants accessed the VTC via the U.S. Army Europe VTC Hub or Defense Information System Network Video Secure Global (DVS-G) through the

Landstuhl STEP facility, which are both 2nd Signal Brigade assets operated and maintained by the 43d Signal Battalion headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany. Capabilities provided by the 2nd Signal Brigade in support of the BUB VTC were essential to the flow of critical information between commanders and subordinates throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 2nd Signal Brigade also provided tactical "reach-back" capabilities to deployed units via STEP, a power projection capability that pushes strategic information services to the deployed warfighter. The STEP personnel and facilities enabled the theater commanders to reach back and communicate with their organizations and command groups on a daily basis, regardless of location. The 2nd Signal Brigade's STEP facilities served as "receivers" of tactical asset transmissions, which then provided strategic connectivity for the tactical units to VTC, ANIPR, ASIPR, and long-local DSN service, among oth-

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**STATE-OF-THE-ART
DCP CONNECTS DEPLOY-
ING OPERATION IRAQI
FREEDOM FORCES
TOGETHER.**

The Warfighter and the Deployable Communications Package - Strategic

By Capt. Lynn Smolinski and
Warrant Officer 2 Theodore Kantor

Over the past few months, units throughout U.S. Army Europe have deployed and shipped mountains of equipment in preparation for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 39th Signal Battalion was designated as the supported battalion for the brigade and received orders to begin preparation for possible sea

Bremerhaven, Germany. The battalion also accompanied the 21st Theater Support Command (TSC), the 80th ASG, and the 598th Transportation Terminal Group (TTG) on all reconnaissance to the ports and LSA locations to ensure the correct services would be available at those locations.

Once the local telecom companies activated the circuits, the 39th Signal Battalion conducted a pre-deployment rehearsal to validate the

move equipment and troops out of Central Europe and into Southwest Asia. The packages were designed to provide data and video services, to include Army Secret Internet Protocol Routing (ASIPR), Army Non-secure Internet Protocol Routing (ANIPR),

*DCP-S a warfighter
Command and Control
(C2) tool.*

and Secure/Non-secure Video-Teleconferencing (VTC) at SPOE's and LSAs.

The teams were made up of four to six soldiers, or Department of the Army civilians (DACs) who had received extensive training on all components of the DCP-S in the Mannheim training center located on Taylor Barracks.

The packages were constructed to provide the warfighter with a reach-back capability using fixed infrastructure and existing government systems, which could be easily provided by almost any telecom company in the world. Each of the ISDN lines at the SPOE and LSA can provide 128kb/sec of bandwidth and can be directly dialed into any designated node in the network using either an Improved Multiplexer (IMUX) or the 3600 Series Cisco Router, which comes with each package. Additionally, the package provides the flexibility of dialing into a node using the router, which keeps the IMUX open for other packages or locations.

The 39th Signal Battalion and the other signal battalions from the 2nd Signal Brigade (43rd, 52nd, 69th, and 102nd) sent their DCP-Ss to several designated SPOEs, LSAs, and



Photo by VISE Media

U.S. Army Europe equipment at the docks in Antwerp, Belgium.

ports of embarkation (SPOE) and Life Support Areas (LSA) operations at various locations throughout its area of operation (AOR).

Local telecommunications companies within Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany were contracted to provide Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) and commercial analog telephone lines to support locations in Antwerp, Belgium; Rotterdam, the Netherlands; and

systems and to ensure the circuits were fully operational. The rehearsal and subsequent tests were accomplished through the cooperation and participation of Deployable Communications Package-Strategic (DCP-S) teams from elements of the 2nd Signal Brigade.

The packages provided communications support to the 21st TSC, the 80th Area Support Group (ASG), and the 598th TTG in their mission to

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“Warfighter”

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convoy support centers (CSCs) throughout the western part of Europe.

The 39th Signal Battalion received orders in early January 2003 to deploy their team to the Antwerp SPOE. It received operational control (OPCON) of a team from the 43rd Signal Battalion to deploy to the Antwerp LSA. The team at the SPOE provided the warfighter with ASIPR, ANIPR, and secure VTC, while the team at the LSA provided them with ASIPR and ANIPR.

During the latter part of March, the battalion was given orders to deploy teams to Rotterdam. At this time, the battalion received two additional DCP-S teams from the 52nd and 69th Signal Battalions. The 69th Signal Battalion provided the SPOE with ASIPR, ANIPR, and secure VTC, while the 52nd Signal Battalion provided the LSA with ANIPR.

The DCP-S provides the

warfighter with a command and control tool, capable of reaching back into the 5th Signal Command communications infrastructure, and giving them the ability to send and receive real-time critical information on equipment and troop movements deploying from

home station to the SPOE. It also gave commanders the capability for movement control and fully enabled their staffs and movement control experts to control their assets.

Editor's Note: Smolinski and Kantor are with 2nd Signal Brigade.



Photo by VISE Media

U.S. Army Europe equipment positioned for shipment in Antwerp, Belgium.

“Vital Links”

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ers. The STEP gateway provided communications used for command and control and logistical support of deployed units, as well as morale and welfare maintenance. The bottom line was that the seamless flow of communication and information management support afforded to deployed units by the military and civilian personnel of the brigade provided users with the same level of service as if they never left the garrison environment.

When circuits and services were installed and modified to support OIF, up to 70 percent of the brigade's theater signal capabilities were committed to meet OIF

requirements. Following the completion of installation and modification of these circuits and services, sustaining wartime communications used nearly 50 percent of 2nd Signal Brigade's capabilities.

Furthermore, up to 90 percent of the 25 satellite connections during OIF and OEF were provided via the STEP facility, which served as communication paths to various operations in Southwest Asia and the Middle East.

The 2nd Signal Brigade's role in Operation Iraqi Freedom was both demanding and intricate. However, the brigade and its personnel rose to the occasion and met the challenge head-on with the knowledge, experience, and determination necessary to

accomplish the mission. The men and women of 2nd Signal Brigade know that missions like Operation Iraqi Freedom will be the way of the future. No matter what the mission, the 2nd Signal Brigade is adaptable, flexible, and resilient enough to overcome any and all obstacles to provide warfighters with reliable and quality communications. Providing dependable communications to our users has been our mission in the past, is our mission now, and will continue to be our mission into the 21st century and beyond.

Editor's Note: Inge is with the 2nd Signal Brigade.

Advance Party, First to Leave

"Advance party departs for Turkey ahead of 7th Sig. Bde. deployment to region."

Story and photos by Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

Logistics NCO, HHC, 7th Signal Brigade.

MANNHEIM, Germany -- 7th Signal Brigade soldiers and civilians deployed to Turkey in support of Armed Forces - Turkey to serve as an advance party in the event of a unit deployment to the region.

"They're very ready," said Lt. Col. Jeannie Tibbetts, battalion commander, 72nd Signal Battalion. "The rest of the unit is right behind them. We just want them to be safe and be patient."

Along with the 72nd Signal Battalion soldiers, the deployment included personnel from the 44th Signal Battalion and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Signal Brigade. Their role will be to evaluate and implement the logistical requirements for deploying the rest of the brigade, should that order come.

"I feel good about it," said Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Johnson, supply and logistics noncommissioned officer in charge, HHC, 44th Signal Battalion. "Instead of just talking about it, I say let's do it and get it over with."

With the world focused on the situation in Iraq and the possibility of war, the departure was an emotional scene for soldiers and their family members.

"It's a necessary mission, but I'm really going to miss my family. I know it will be tough for them," said Sgt. Benjamin Huggins, Supply and

His wife, Cherice Huggins, said she had mixed emotions about the deployment but was there to support him.

"I don't want him to leave, but I know I need to be his strength on this side," she said.

Sgt. Huggins, who has served in Afghanistan and Pakistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, said his past deployment experience prepared him well for this mission.

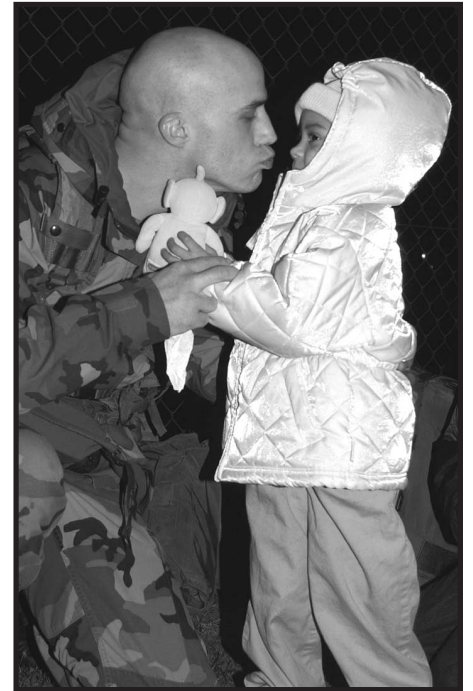
"It's my job," he said. "I'm trained for it and I'm not scared to do my job."

For some soldiers, like Spc. Troy Lott, microwave systems opera-

tor-maintainer, HHC, 72nd Signal Battalion, this was the first deployment.

"I don't know what to expect," he said. "I'll just have to adjust."

Johnson, who has deployed to Saudi Arabia and Bosnia, said his



Sgt. Benjamin Huggins says goodbye to daughter Chenoble, 3.

advice to younger soldiers was to "stay focused."

"The main objective is to come back safe," he said. "They've just got to stay motivated and keep the faith."

Cherice Huggins said she would use her experiences from her husband's previous deployments to help support other family members through the Family Readiness Group.

"We'll be there to take care of each other and try to be strong for the little ones," she said.

Their son, Bruce Huggins, 10, said he prayed for his father to come back from Afghanistan.

This time, he said, "We'll pray again."



Spc. Roderick Quimbly signs out his weapon for the deployment.

52nd' DCP-S Teams Deploy

By Sgt. Kathleen Larson

In October 2002, the 2nd Signal Brigade began training personnel to operate the Deployable Communications Package - Strategic (DCP-S). The brigade's subordinate battalions were tasked to handpick qualified personnel to populate each DCP-S team. Each team is trained and ready to provide the latest in

team created a Local Area Network for the 37th Transportation Command to provide data communications by means of non-secure (NIPR) and secure (SIPR) Internet protocols. Although the initial requirements were under-projected, the team was ready to meet several challenges unforeseen by the customer. By planning for contingencies and utilizing the knowledge and

specialties of each team member, the team was able to improve facility infrastructure by repairing and replacing cable and adding an additional 30 unexpected customers.

The team deployed to the port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands supporting the 1st Armored Division's deployment to the Middle East. During the first two days of operations at the Living Support Area (LSA) and port communications facilities, the team successfully ran telephone lines and over 2,500 meters of CAT V cable.

In addition to a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week operations schedule, the 52nd DCP-S team assisted with the video teleconference (VTC) on a daily basis. "It's an excellent opportunity for soldiers to build a network from the ground up..." SGT Brandon Sade explains.

"Establishing connectivity and maintaining is our daily job. It takes extra dedication and hard work to obtain excellence. There's no doubt that Rotterdam, like Rijeka, will be nothing short of a complete success!"

Editors Note: Larson is with the 2nd Signal Brigade.



52nd Signal Battalion soldier checking connections of the Deployable Communications Package-Strategic.

communications support for the warfighter.

The 52nd Signal Battalion chose its best to represent the organization, including SSG Yan Oei (NCOIC), GS-12 Langford Chew, SGT Brandon Sade, SGT Kathleen Larson, and SPC Richard Medill. The team has worked hard to set the standard in deployable communications. Professionalism, customer satisfaction, and exceeding expectations are top priority on every mission.

While supporting Task Force Rijeka IX from February 21 through March 24, 2003, the 52nd DCP-S



Photo by SGT Kathleen Larson

U.S. Army Europe vehicles prepared for shipment in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Training Young Leaders for War

By Maj. Ross Osborne

In March 2002, 7th Sig. Bde. began planning what would have been the largest communications network installed by this European Theater Signal Brigade since a Return of Forces to Germany was conducted in Europe.

Since the completion of Operation Joint Guard in Bosnia, the brigade had deployed packages to 13 countries on three continents throughout the European Command (EUCOM) Area of Operations.

The network was to require the installation of every manned assemblage in the brigade's inventory. It would also have augmentation from the 2nd Sig. Bde's, Theater Communications Security unit, the 11th Sig. Det., as well as the 6981st Civ. Spt. Gp., a German cable and wire installation unit.

This network would provide secure voice, data, and video teleconference in four countries, and reach across Europe to the Central Region.

To prepare our soldiers and leaders, we strengthened our Voice of Freedom University by benefiting from the expertise of the U.S. Army Communications Electronics Command, and General Dynamics contractors.

These people provided exceptional training on satellite and data systems, network installation, and troubleshooting of critical systems. One of these systems is the Integrated Digital Network Exchange (IDNX) recently fielded to the brigade in September 2002.

Training began in October 2002 with a series of Voice of Freedom classes, which included Tactical Satellite with a focus on the Enhanced Tactical Satellite Signal Processor. Classes on TROPO taught advanced skills and maintenance on the Tropospheric Scatter Radio system. Information technology classes focused on network nodal management.

Other systems were also included that would prove critical to our success in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Additional training consisted of Promina IDNX and IA.

The brigade then conducted an exercise to institutionalize the Voice of Freedom University training. The one-week brigade FTX became a continuing exercise designed to give the 1st Infantry Division and 21st Theater Support Command (TSC) time to conduct their command post exercises. This also gave them a chance to practice their daily battle rhythm while still at their home stations.

By the time the first unit from the 72nd Sig. Bn. deployed in support of Joint Task Force Cobra

in Israel, the brigade had completed its university training.

When the rest of the brigade's equipment deployed to Turkey to support ARFOR-Turkey, the 21st TSC and soldiers and leaders of the Voice of Freedom continued to train soldiers.

The Voice of Freedom training paid great dividends in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The brigade employed its Gateway Communications Package to extend services to an internal theater network managed totally by the brigade. Five of the brigade's 11 light communications packages located in Turkey, led by 1st Lt. Mike Lockhart, 1st Lt. Pete Santos, 2nd Lt. Jeff Krueger, 2nd Lt. Cleo Thompson, and 2nd Lt. Tom Enterline, all Voice of Freedom students, proved their versatility and certified the train-up by performing no fewer than two jumps each.

Additionally, the two heavy and one light package sent to support the Central Command Land Forces in Kuwait and Baghdad continue to show their capacity to react to different needs while ensuring services are provided to the warfighter.

Editor's Note: Osborne was the S3 operations officer, 7th Signal Brigade.

509th Operations in Northern Iraq

By Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

One day after paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade made their March 26 jump into Northern Iraq, a team from the 509th Signal Battalion arrived and began establishing communications.

"We set up as soon as possible because communications is key to

automations noncommissioned officer in charge, 173rd Airborne Brigade. "I place it at No. 1 in importance. We can now communicate with higher echelons."

The support the C2FEM provided included secure and non-secure Internet protocol router networks, Defense Switched Network lines, and video teleconferencing capability.

With the ability to communicate with warfighters on the ground, higher commands could continue battlefield operations in Northern Iraq.

"Getting that connection in saves lives," said Spc. Avery Costner, C2FEM information systems specialist. "Commanders can make decisions and communicate on the links we provide. The better we can communicate, the better we are as a fighting force."

Along with the 173rd, the C2FEM is supporting a number of other units deployed to Northern Iraq, including the 2/15th Field Artillery, the 4th Infantry Division, and the 201st Forward Support Battalion.

The package has not only been providing tactical communications, but was also able set up a temporary "Internet café" for soldiers to communicate with family and friends during the deployment.

"That was a big morale booster," said O'Mara.

Soldiers deployed in Iraq have had to contend with difficult



The Command and Control Force Enhancement Module communications package, set up on Bashur Airfield, 509th's first location after arriving in Northern Iraq.

survival in a tactical environment," said 1st Lt. Kursteen Nelson, officer in charge of the Command and Control Force Enhancement Module (C2FEM) communications package.

In just four hours Nelson's 12-member C2FEM package was set up and providing vital support for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 173rd paratroopers, who had just made the first U.S. combat airborne drop since Operation Just Cause in Panama, now had communications on the ground in Iraq.

"Without communications, you're just flapping in the breeze," said Staff Sgt. Bobby O'Mara,



Setting up tent after arriving. From left to right: Spc. Eddy Hong, Spc. Nelson Lo, Spc. Avery Costner, and Pfc. Yolanda Baca.

Continued on next page

"509th Operations"

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conditions. The package has had to contend with sandstorms, muddy conditions, and oppressive heat. They even had to move from their tents to bunkers because of the extreme temperatures. So far, they've subsisted on rations and meals, ready to eat (MREs).

"Considering the living conditions, (the soldiers) have kept a good attitude," she said. "They've worked well together and learned what it means to be a team player - not just within the package, but with other units, too. When you work as a team, things happen."

Capt. Christine Stevens, commander, HHD, 509th Signal Battalion,

said the team has done a great job supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Everyone is very proud of them," she said. "They're doing an amazing job."

Soldiers getting C2FEM support on the ground attested to the 509th effort. "The 509th has given us seamless communications," said O'Mara. "They work wonders."



Staff Sgt. Verne Devere making a crossover cable.

Despite the harsh environment, Nelson said the package has done an "outstanding job" in coming together as a team and making the mission a success.



Spc. Nelson Lo covering up cables.



Sgt. Joanne Joseph-Douse and Spc. Avery Costner.

"Road to War"

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of focused discussion included command and control structure; reporting chains; customer needs; and procedural and technical interoperability among diverse U.S. forces and Coalition forces. Discussions also included developing communications security plans, phone directories, and signal operating instructions across two combatant commands.

The group recognized their common objectives and charted a path to success. By the final day the group, having identified 164 unresolved issues, would pledge to track the progress and "close out" of each item. Attendees left Mannheim with

some answers, many due outs, and an access to a 5th Signal Command website to share their plans. They also left with a contact list of professional communicators committed to working together.

The 5th Signal Command C4 ROC Drill would be the first in a series of synchronization and preparation events--the EUCOM C4 Synch Conference, the 4th ID ROC Drill at Ft. Hood, V Corps' S6 Conference in Darmstadt, 21st TSC's Fort to Port ROC Drill, the Army Force ROC Drill led by 1st Infantry Division, and the 7th Signal Brigade's ROC Drill, to name a few.

Standing on the map, Quagliotti challenged the group to do the hard work up front before hostili-

ties started. She also admitted that the people in the room would be the keys to success in building one network from Turkey, to Israel, to Kuwait and Iraq.

Some of the battalion commanders who took part in military operations in Kuwait and Iraq have recently described during oral history interviews how valuable the ROC drills were. They said the drills allowed people to get to know the terrain where they would deploy, the operational order of battle, and who their leaders would be.

Editor's Note: Hanley is the Chief, Contingency Branch, G3, 5th Signal Command.

509th in "Agile Response"

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implementing those things. You're using the systems and making it happen. With the hands-on experience, I'll come out of here a better (network) administrator."

Along with technical training, the rehearsal was also an opportunity for the members of the 509th to work in a joint and multinational environment. With several different branches and foreign militaries working on the evacuation rehearsal, it

was up to the signal unit to get them all communicating together.

"The (Longare) setup is very impressive in its complexity," said Canadian Army Maj. Michael Turney, liaison officer, Canadian National Defence Headquarters. "With any problems that have arisen, (the 509th) has gone above and beyond to fix them. If this were a real operation, they'd be ready to go."

Lamkin said the key to readiness was people.

"The biggest thing is the people are ready," he said. "They

will do whatever it takes to make it happen. They have the ability to work with others. The amazing thing is in this kind of (joint) environment, it doesn't matter what uniform you wear. Everyone brings their specific skills to bear and we've accomplished a lot."

The training received during this exercise set the 509th communicators up for success when the call came to deploy to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ready to Rock

"Task force from 44th Signal Battalion sets off for Kuwait"

Story and photos by Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

MANNHEIM, Germany -- Members of 44th Signal Battalion's "Task Force Rock" began departing for Kuwait April 14 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"You have been preparing for this day for quite a long time," said Lt. Col. Theresa Coles, battalion commander. "Go out and do great things."

Coles spoke at a ceremony in which the C Company guidon was cased for the deployment. The task force, made up of the battalion's "Charlie Rock" company and a platoon from A Company, has 91 soldiers and two civilian personnel. The last of the group left early May 4.

"We're ready to go," said Capt. Gary Farley, task force commander. "We've been gearing up for months for this."

Originally, the battalion was to be part of a 7th Signal Brigade deployment to Turkey in support of Iraqi Freedom. However, Turkey's decision not to allow U.S. staging required the brigade to reconfigure, reload, and ship its assets and divert to Kuwait.

"We're flexible," Farley said. "We can be shaped in the way we're needed."

The 44th Signal Battalion is currently providing tactical communi-

cations to Operation Iraqi Freedom forces in Kuwait and Baghdad.

Though major combat operations have ended in Iraq, Farley and his team continue to provide critical C2.

Sgt. Spencer Frazier, cable team chief, was excited about the mission.

Prior to departing for Kuwait he said, "It will be good for younger soldiers to get experience in a real world environment, and also a good opportunity for young leaders to

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Company C along with members of Company A in formation before deployment.



Col. Theresa Coles looks on as Company C Colors are cased for deployment.



Stacking weapons for deployment.

22nd Signal Brigade TROPO Proves Successful in Battle

By 2nd Lt. Alisha Ramsey

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- As kids, most people can remember playing telephone with paper cups and a string. The paper-cup-string method proved to work from one room to another, but for long-distance communications on the battlefield, soldiers of the 514th Signal Company use what is called Tropospheric Scattering Radar, or TROPO. To explain it in simple terms, soldiers at each end (paper cups) shoot a radio wave (the string) into the sky and bank it off of the troposphere (a layer of the atmos-

ment as huge "Mickey Mouse ears." Besides TROPO, this Army uses other types of equipment to provide communications to two distant ends. One type is called line of sight transmission (LOS), which requires antennas. The antenna on one end must be able to see the antenna on the opposite end in order to pass the signal needed to communicate. The LOS works at distances of up to 25 miles apart.

Another type of communication the Army uses is the Tactical Satellite, or TACSAT. The TACSAT sends a signal directly to a satellite in the sky, thus providing for the greatest coverage, even distances of up to 600

mile bandwidth is unavailable or if SATCOM is on the move, TROPO units can serve as backup.

The operational intent during Operation Iraqi Freedom was to use the 514th Signal Company from Fort Bragg during later phases of the operation. TROPO teams were going to be used when the fighting slowed or even stopped. Capt. Mitchell McKinney, the 514th company commander, proposed that his TROPO teams be used during the fight. After some test shots, TROPO proved to be useful during the war since TROPO could be placed at checkpoints throughout Iraq, which are about 100 miles apart or less.

Sgt. 1st Class Paul B. England believes that the use of these TROPO and TACSAT teams allowed the warfighter to advance further into Iraq at a quicker pace. TROPO and TACSAT were moved together in order to create a redundant and reliable communications path from every location.

One major obstacle for the 514th was the fact that most of its operators hadn't received institutional training on TROPO. "A lot of operators were inexperienced because they never trained to do TROPO in Advanced Individual Training (AIT)," said Sgt. Glen R. Baez, a TROPO team chief for the 514th.

"Our TROPO teams have learned a lot due to the several training exercises we did prior to our deployment," he said. They now have 14 TROPO teams operating throughout Iraq, from Kirkuk to southern Baghdad. Currently they also have six TACSAT teams operating in Afghanistan.

Editor's Note: Ramsey is in the 22nd Signal Brigade.



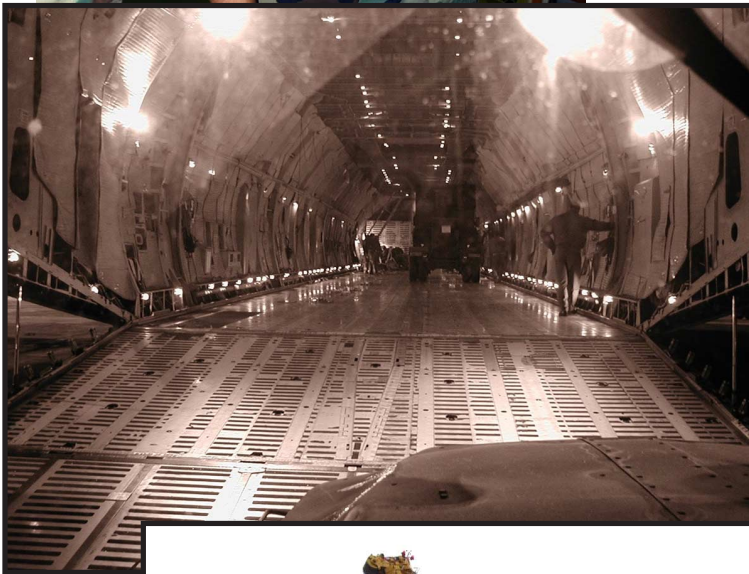
22nd Signal Brigade soldiers setting up TROPO in Iraqi Desert.

phere). The waves carry data and are received at a distant end, so now soldiers at both ends can communicate.

TROPO communications has the ability to connect distant ends from up to 100 miles apart. Soldiers commonly refer to this antenna equip-

ment as huge "Mickey Mouse ears." You might wonder why the Army even uses TROPO when they can use TACSAT, tap into a satellite, and have greater coverage availability. The answer is that the Army always has backup in case one method goes down. For example, when satel-

DEPLOYMENTS



REACHBACK COMMUNICATIONS







Bravery and Faith

By Chaplain (Capt.) Cloyd Colby

Watching the last of Task Force Rock deploy to Kuwait the other night (or was it morning?) left me with mixed emotions. I was so proud of them and what they had done to prepare for their mission. I knew that they were embarking on something that would make a difference for good in the world.

I also felt a certain heart pang that I couldn't go with them.

The thought occurred to me that I had to trust that God's protecting and guiding Hand would be with them. I then thought of their families and their feelings. They also

feels a flood of regret when leaving. Fortunately, this doesn't last long as we remember those moments when we did do, say, or show what was right.

As we begin any deployment, consider this: We now have the opportunity to do, say, and



Time to load the bus for departure.

have to trust the Lord to see their soldier through.

These are the times that cause us to wonder, "Have we said what we needed to say, done what we needed to do, and shown the love that needed to be shown?" Typically, everyone

show what will be a part of the redeployment experience later. Starting now, we can set and reach for goals that will give meaning to the sacrifices being made. Where there is meaning and purpose in our lives, we find the bravery and faith necessary for true happiness.

Daddy gets a good-by kiss before he leaves.

Editor's Note: Colby is the Chaplain for the 44th Signal Battalion.

Photos are by Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald.

"Ready to Rock"

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develop skills. This is our chance to do the job we're trained for."

Attending the ceremony was Frazier's wife, Elizabeth, and their 5-year-old son, Deryhan. It will be the

first deployment for the Fraziers as a family. Though her husband's leaving will be difficult, Elizabeth said she fully supports her husband on this mission.

"I have a lot of confidence in him and the people he's with," she said.

Sergeant Frazier even gave his son his very own mission during this deployment.

"My dad told me to take care of my mom," said Deryhan.

Connecting Soldiers from Downrange to Loved Ones

"Switch Operators Working Around the Clock"

Photos and Release by 2nd Signal Brigade Staff

Whether as the senior assistant operator, processing a call for the President of the United States, or one of our own in Belgium, Germany or Italy, the operators have played a vital role in our lives.

Although most people think about operators in their role for information assistance, there is a bigger role that is often overlooked - Health, Morale, and Welfare calls for soldiers and civilians.

you know your neighbors' telephone number? If your neighbor answers, they can get your spouse on the line..."

It's a tough, demanding job with long hours, yet Dial Service Attendant (DSA) is one of the most important jobs there is. U.S. Army Europe's telephone operator, now known as a DSA, has myriad responsibilities beyond picking up a phone connection and providing a friendly voice. DSA attendants are

required to have intimate knowledge of the complex tandem-switching center while providing service around the clock. Moreover, they are required to maintain knowledge of all key personnel, route their calls, and locate individuals for emergency calls. They must have knowledge of call routing, including commercial and leased lines located on hundreds of military installations. Attendants are also a repository of information, including functions and activities of organizations, troop unit designations, and locations of offices and personnel. They must manage all this information exer-

Continued on next page



On a normal day, an operator encounters several moving moments like: "Operator, I am trying to talk to my son because today is his birthday; can you try the number again?" The operator smiles, dials the number again, hoping that the family member will answer because the operator senses the anxiety on the distant end. "Sorry, but the line is still busy. Do



“Connecting Soldiers”

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cising tact and courtesy while dealing with a complex host of customers.

DSA offices at a number of locations are in the center of supporting the latest conflict and continuing support for all down-range contingencies that involve U.S. forces.

For example in Heidelberg, in May 2002, the number of phone calls that were processed were 12,880. Of these calls only 25 percent were Health, Morale, and Welfare calls. As a comparison, in May 2003, the operators serviced 99,300 calls and 74 percent were Health, Morale, and Welfare calls.

Theater-wide, operators process nearly 13,000 calls daily and more than 350,000 calls a month. More than 50 percent of the call volume is in support of operations in southwest Asia and operations involving KFOR and SFOR.

The DSA operators are faced with the daily challenge of keeping up with the larger number



of calls for assistance. They are dealing with people who are very emotional and have a burning desire to get through to the family or the reverse.

The staff is courteous and efficient, capturing the number as quickly as possible and making the connection, if possible. They are the front line for morale and are deserving of recognition for their tireless efforts.

Quick Reaction Force

Mannheim team shows its speed

By Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

MANNHEIM, Germany -- Making it clear why they're called the Quick Reaction Force, team members from the Sullivan Barracks unit responded to an incident in half the time required during a recent readiness exercise.

"I was impressed," said Maj. Scott Sandback, installation security officer for HHC, 7th Signal Brigade. "They did very well."

Not knowing it was an exercise, QRF members swiftly moved into action after a call from installation security. The team, made up of soldiers from HHC, 44th Signal Bn., gathered their equipment and reported to a location across from the commissary.

Once there, the soldiers were informed it was an exercise and briefed on the scenario.



Photo by Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

Sgt. Andrea Warner searches a vehicle in the commissary parking lot.

In the scenario, an alert came after a vehicle gained unauthorized access to the installation. The script continued with the vehicle being spotted in the area of the commissary. It was further revealed that military police were notified but were unable to respond, prompting activation of the QRF.

Part of the briefing included instruction on vehicle search and inspection procedures, not normally a part of QRF training.

"They need to be adept at a variety of missions," said Sandback. "This exercise is a chance to validate the QRF and provide some new training."

The soldiers were given a description of the suspect vehicle and informed of the proper techniques for safely securing the scene.

"This is very good training," said Spec. Lindalee Killian, an opera-

tions clerk for HHC, 44th Signal Bn. "I didn't know how to do this before. There hasn't been anything like this for the QRF."

Once briefed, the QRF then secured the commissary parking lot and began searching vehicles, looking for anything out of the ordinary. After a sweep of the parking lot, the team was able to locate the suspect vehicle. A device, fashioned to look like a homemade bomb, was discovered in the front passenger well of the car. In an actual threat, an explosive ordnance disposal team would have then been called to clear the scene.

"They did an outstanding job," said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Breckenridge, NCO in charge of the QRF.

"This was very realistic training and a worthwhile exercise," he said. "It helps in team-building."

Apart from the training value, the exercise was important to the community and its force protection plan, said Sandback.

"This lets the soldiers know that what they're doing is important,"

Continued on next page

*Quality Force
Protection critical
during heightened
tensions*



Photo by Sgt. Jan Allende

Vehicle searches and inspections on Sullivan Barracks.

Many Happy Returns

*"Deployed soldiers
return from
Operation Iraqi
Freedom"*

Story and photos by Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

Cheers, hugs, and handshakes greeted soldiers returning this May from deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I miss him, I love him, I'm glad to have him home," said Carrie McDonald, wife of Sgt. Michael McDonald.

Sgt. McDonald was one of several soldiers welcomed back in ceremonies held by the 44th Signal Battalion and the 72nd Signal Battalion for their returning troops.

"It's great to be with the family again," he said.

A light wheel vehicle mechanic for Company B, 44th Signal Battalion, McDonald said he had a chance to learn a lot not only about his job, but also about what the Signal Corps does.

"I felt privileged to see how they run their business," he said.

The two signal battalions, along with elements from HHC, 7th Signal Brigade, deployed troops to Turkey in February in anticipation of operations in Iraq. The signal units set up communications that would have served as a vital link to warfighters involved in a "Northern Front" into Iraq. However, Turkey's refusal to let U.S. forces use its country as a launching pad for a campaign against Iraq changed the war plan. Nonetheless, the signal troops were able to do their part in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We were able to set up communications for users, and we accomplished our mission," said 2nd Lt. Jeff Krueger, communications package officer in charge, Company B, 72nd Signal Battalion.

Speaking to her soldiers, Lt. Col. Theresa Coles, 44th Signal Battalion commander, said they faced "an uncommon mission" and made their unit proud.

"The safe return of all our outstanding soldiers is a testament to the discipline of

the soldiers and the competence of the leaders," she said.

Lt. Col. Jeannie Tibbetts, 72nd Signal Battalion commander, agreed.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to have them back safe and sound. That is an accomplishment," she said.

Though the mission did not go as planned, many soldiers said they got a lot out of the experience.

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Home finally from deployment.

"Quick Reaction Force"

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he said. "They are a critical part of the force protection plan and they need to understand that the community looks to them. This exercise demonstrates that force protection is

still a priority, despite competing demands on the forces."

Killian said she was pleased to have a role in force protection.

"I feel like I'm contributing," she said. "It's good to let the community know we're out there."

For retiree Frank Ezell, the exercise was important to community

safety. Ezell was shopping at the commissary during the exercise and had his vehicle searched.

"I think it's very necessary," he said. "They should continue this and do more (of these exercises). When it gets slack, that's when something happens. I give them an A-plus."

Family Readiness Group Supports Those Left Behind

By 2nd Lt. Gemma Ferrick

The 72nd Signal Battalion's Family Readiness Group gathered for an informative and enjoyable meeting this past February when the battalion deployed to both Turkey and Israel. The goal of the meeting was to further unite families of the battalion and take care of

their support needs during deployment.

Key leaders of the FRG gave a warm greeting to families

and generously extended their help to each family member. Cathy Hays, the battalion's FRG leader, successfully led the unit's FRG team in this event and all the group's activities during deployment. The group's leaders include Donna Ramos (Company A), Jennifer Gaylon (Company B),



Cathy Hays



Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Rodriguez, command sergeant major, 72nd Signal Battalion, speaks to family members at meeting.



Family members at the FRG support gathering.

Michelle Marino (Company C), and Brandi Douglas-Angela Goodman (HHC).

The battalion chaplain, Capt. Byung Min, gave a witty, yet informative briefing. It taught everyone how to recognize the signs as well as the types of stress deployments might cause. He also showed how to deal with it efficiently.

The evening's discussion came to a close as the members enjoyed a potluck dinner with new and old friends of the 72nd Signal Battalion's Family Readiness Group.

Editor's Note: Ferrick is with 72nd Signal Battalion.

On The Home Front

By Ms. Jacqueline S. Naumchik

Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) are an essential part of any unit. Manned by volunteers, primarily family members, FRGs do much to

tance of our FRG and has strengthened the FRG in support of the 43rd Team. Volunteers are the foundation of our FRG. Indeed, they are "the heart of our FRG."

Recruiting and retaining volunteers is always a key issue for

FRGs. One important aspect in retaining volunteers is ensuring continuing recognition and support of their efforts.

The 43rd Signal Battalion recently honored our FRG volunteers who gave their time and effort over the past year to make our FRG stronger and better. Our volunteers help our Army families become stronger, more self-sufficient, and ready to take on whatever comes their way.

Our volunteers have selflessly served in numerous ways from assisting with fundraisers and children's parties, to tracking volunteers, to being FRG Leaders. We appreciate all that they do. Our volunteers gave back to our unit, our community, and the United States Army. Teamwork, Strength, and Speed. Hooah!!

Editor's Note: Naumchik is the 43rd Signal Battalion Family Readiness Group Adviser.



43rd Signal Battalion FRG volunteers recognized.

ensure readiness and alleviate soldiers' concerns about their families when they are away on temporary duty, deployed, or at school. As our soldiers have been tasked to fill slots in Sarajevo or Israel, sent to Antwerp to provide communications in the Life Support Activity or normally scheduled professional development classes, our FRG was there, sending care packages and checking on family members.

Since assuming command, my husband has stressed the impor-



Mrs. Jennifer Helms is awarded for being the Battalion's FRG Volunteer of the Year.

"Happy Returns"

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"I learned a lot of patience," said Spc. Jackson Johnston, satellite communications systems operator-maintainer, B Company, 44th Signal Battalion. "We had to learn to adapt to a changing, unknown situation in the middle of a war. Now it's great to come back to a cheering crowd and have them waiting for us."

While soldiers have completed the mission and returned from Turkey and Israel, many other remain in theater supporting ongoing missions. We remember them and their families and look forward to their "Happy Return."



Personal Force Protection

By Ms. Christine A. Moffitt

At the time this article was written, major combat operations in Iraq had ended and U.S. Army Europe had decreased to Force Protection Condition Bravo. However, U.S. soldiers are still reporting harassment while driving on roads.

The recent decrease in FPCON, however, is no reason for complacency. By FPCON Bravo definition, the threat of terrorist activity remains "increased and more predictable." Local and regional instability prevalent during Operation Iraqi Freedom and the war on terrorism endures. The responsibility for one's own security, safety, and awareness -- now as ever -- falls on every one of us. As warmer weather and traditional vacation periods approach, consider another "R&R" during your rest and relaxation: Research your destination; reduce your signature.

Research your destination

Research your destination before deciding when and where to visit foreign sights, sounds, and evening events. Several resources are available for travel safety research. Best bet -- The U.S. State Department Bureau of Consular Affairs website: http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html. Among other valuable information, this website lists detailed travel warnings and recommendations for Americans traveling outside the United States.

U.S. government facilities across the globe are still wrangling with varied threat conditions and defense postures and may not be oper-

ating at normal staff strength. They may interrupt or suspend key services or alter their normal working hours.

Before your trip, find out the location and phone number of the U.S. embassy or consulate closest to your destination. As an added safety measure, contact them on your arrival. Learn key emergency numbers in your host country, such as the local police, fire station, and hospital. Your "handy" may not operate as expected in a foreign land, so familiarize yourself with the local phone system as well.

As well as your local chain of command, tell a family member or friend here or stateside about your travel plans and expected date of return.

Enjoy your time away from work and school, but keep an eye on local news, keep smart on worldwide events, and realize the implications both may have on your travel itinerary -- your trip home. Take note of scheduled, publicized demonstrations and avoid those locations while you plan your trip.

Pick up and practice key phrases in your destination's native tongue, and speak them with a quiet yet confident tone. Use English-language tour books extensively for research, but view them discreetly once you're out-and-about with the local populace. Which leads to the next point -- Reduce your signature as a terrorist target.

Reduce your signature

Some say Saint Ambrosius first penned the term, "When in Rome... do as the Romans do." This is a novel idea, even 1300 years ago!

Try to be anonymous and inconspicuous in all you say, do, and wear while traveling. Behave in a manner consistent with local customs, and tell children and family members to do the same. Try to blend in with your surroundings while positively representing the armed forces.

Terrorists often do not discriminate between civilian and military targets. Locations known as favorite American expatriate gathering places draw attention and may be more dangerous than smaller, more discreet dining and social spots. On the other hand, when off the beaten path, use the buddy system and remain vigilant of your surroundings.

Protect yourself and your travel companions against opportunist targeting! World events aggravate cultural tensions. The threat to U.S. citizens and interests abroad lingers, but our current FPCON should not discourage safe, and smart travel. Awareness of one's surroundings is far more valuable than fear, helplessness, or distrust of foreign cultures.

See your unit S2 or Security Manager

U.S. Army Europe regulation requires that everyone, whether traveling on official or unofficial business, receive a threat briefing before traveling to high-threat areas or countries listed in the State Department current travel warnings. U.S. Army Europe also provides travel-security advisories every quarter.

They can provide unclassified as well as classified briefings if you are properly cleared to receive classified information. You can also visit the U.S. Army Europe Internet homepage and find travel advisories, current force protection conditions and a list-

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Network Operations and Security Centers

By G3 Staff, 5th Signal Command

The primary concept that underlies the way the Army will fight in the future is Network-Centric Warfare. Under this concept, sensors, weapons systems, staffs, and commanders will be integrated, such that commanders and staffs will "know" the battlespace with a higher degree of accuracy and certainty than an enemy will. This will, in turn, allow U.S. forces to decisively defeat any enemy by moving forces rapidly and massing the effects of weapons systems against them before an enemy can do the same to us. While Network-Centric Warfare is the underlying concept of the future force, the Army is even now employing it. During Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), U.S. forces employed unprecedented maneuverability and agility in defeating Taliban/Al-Qaida and Iraqi forces as a result of achieving information dominance.

A major component in achieving Network-Centric Warfare is a highly responsive and robust information infrastructure, or infostructure, to support the high density of data and information that will be generated. This infostructure will be a virtually seamless melding of tactical and strategic communications and computer systems. The infostructure will directly support combat forces in a theater of war while also linking tacti-

cal forces with strategic command and control and sustainment centers.

To help achieve the information dominance that was vital to defeating enemy forces, soldiers and civilians of the 5th Signal Command brought the strategic communications links into the OEF and OIF theaters and smoothly integrated them with tactical systems into an information grid span-

NOSCs, throughout the theater. To ensure the communications requirements of supported forces are rapidly met, the NOSCs work in concert with network service centers during predeployment, deployment, execution, and sustainment efforts of all operations.

ANOSC

The ANOSC is the focal point for all command and control of communications and computer systems operated and maintained by the 5th Signal Command. The ANOSC remotely monitors all

Continued on next page



ning the globe. This was a highly complex effort that required precision control over the multitude of information systems that made up the grid. The 5th Signal Command achieved this control by employing its Army Network Operations and Security Center (ANOSC) and a series of regional network operations and security centers, or

major nodes and transmission systems in the 5th Signal Command information grid to include deployed tactical systems on a 24x7 basis. In many cases, such as for voice switches and data routers and switches, the ANOSC can also remotely configure major nodes to effect changes or restore interrupt-

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"Network Operations"

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ed services. Working in concert with the Regional Computer Emergency Response Team-Europe (RCERT-E) the ANOSC also controls the information assurance efforts in the information grid.

While the ANOSC is the primary command, and control node it works with the NOSC and network service centers (NSCs) operated in each sub-region of the theater to ensure timely completion of network actions. The NOSC's have nearly the same capability for monitoring the information grid in their areas but lack most of the capabilities to remotely configure systems. Instead, the NOSC's dispatch and control teams of soldier and civilian technicians to install communications servicing new requirements and to restore malfunctioning systems. The NOSC's are controlled by the signal battalion responsible for each sub-region but they also receive technical direction from the ANOSC.

Similarly, the NSCs provide service centers the receive user requirements and turn them into service orders for installing communications. The NSCs also operate the help desk where users call in service problems. The ANOSC tracks service orders generated by the NSCs and configures the network as needed for any requirement. The ANOSC also tracks service troubles called in by users to ensure timely resolution of any trouble and to provide technical assistance as required.



NOSC

The NOSC program was established to provide highly responsive control over the strategic communications systems in Europe and the Balkans. All the NOSC facilities in central European region and the NOSC operation in the Balkans are operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As operations in Europe expanded as part of supporting SFOR, KFOR, OEF, and OIF, the NOSC's evolved making great strides to achieve the Army's vision for Network Operations (NETOPS). Phase 3 of the program is nearing completion this fall and we are achieving our objective to transform network operations and support.

The latest NOSC upgrade came on line when the 509th Signal Battalion NOSC transitioned to their new facili-

ty in Vicenza, Italy this past January. The 52nd Signal Battalion NOSC in Stuttgart, Germany, will complete its renovation project this June, becoming a state-of-the-art facility.

Our effort to expand the monitoring capability on the A-SIPRNET that we have on the A-NIPRNET has also been completed. A distributed Network Management system was installed in April to support the increased A-SIPRNET customer base. In addition, June is when installation on the monitoring systems for the new 155mbps microwave radio network will be completed in the central region NOSC. Also in July monitoring systems will be installed for the new Army telephone switches, increasing visibility of the voice network.

We completed fielding of the NETIQ "Manager of

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"Network Operations"

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Manager's" system giving all the NOSC's the capability to manage all critical applications in their area of operations. The manager-of-manager's capability provides theater-wide visibility to the ANOSC. The system allows monitoring capability across all operating systems and platforms, including Microsoft's Windows operating systems and Unix-based systems like Sun Solaris.

Video teleconferencing (VTC) equipment has been installed to provide collaboration tools to enhance the NOSC operational capabilities from an Enterprise perspective. Fault isolation, performance analysis, information assurance, and Information Dissemination Management functions can now move from a voice only conversation to a virtual Enterprise workspace. Technicians will have the capability to actually see any system, talk to technicians in any NOSC, and collaborate in real time.

The integration of these systems and technologies provide full visibility across all our Data, Transmission and Voice networks in the Theater of operations. We are ready to provide deployed forces with the communication services they will need to fight and win.

NSC

Since completion of phase one of the Network Service Center implementation in May 02, we have accomplished a great deal of meaningful work. Our NSCs support the warfighter from twenty-one strategically placed locations in U.S. Army Europe with seven additional locations in the Balkans.

We are continuing to make meaningful renovations to our



existing facilities to enhance the one-stop-shop concept of a Help Desk. Although we are still at the beginning stages of realizing this vision, we have already seen the benefits our customers enjoy by this centralization of services.

Many other initiatives are happening behind the scenes. We continue to promote better business practices, and continually search for ways to improve internal processes. Our training program continues to be customized to provide our highly talented staff more and better opportunities to hone their skills. Network operations continue to be refined as we move to more efficient ways to initiate and update our unclassified NETOPS Support System (NSS) tickets and we are also continuing to "push out" the ability to monitor

the status of the unclassified network. The next major initiative will be to provide these same services on the classified network. Extensive work has already been conducted in this area and an enterprise solution should be implemented by September 2003.

In early March 2003, we completed the final draft of the NSC Implementation Plan. This plan is the result of several months

of painstaking work and includes a detailed guide of how we will fully develop our NSCs. Through a comprehensive list of task, conditions, and standards associated with the operation of critical services, a

detailed list of specific challenges to be overcome at every NSC, and an aggressive but realistic timeline for completion, we have positioned ourselves to successfully meet the objectives outlined by the Army G6 CIO for NETOPS.

The powerful combination of the ANOSC, NOSC's, and NSCs gives the 5th Signal Command an unparalleled capability to command and control strategic and tactical communications networks. As we get closer to meshing the Army into a single combat network as required for Army transformation, we see our vision and hard work meeting not only the realities of today, but also the challenges of tomorrow.

Information Assurance

"Fundamentals to Defense in Depth"

By Mr. Jerry Peters

Warfighters depend on computer networks to go about our every-day business, to include operations planning, force deployments, and mission execution. The increasing dependence on evolving technologies make warfighters vulnerable to threats from insider and outsider attacks and malicious software. During FY03 our

*Defense in Depth
preparedness key to
meeting command's
INFOCON needs.*

intrusion detection systems have recorded 75 million probes directed at US Army Europe networks. No intrusions were detected in U.S. Army Europe networks during FY 02 and FY 03. This success is attributable to U.S. Army Europe's defense in depth Information Assurance (IA) strategy. This strategy employs tailored defenses including access-control lists, intrusion detection systems at the wide area network and metropolitan area network borders; centrally managed Exchange servers, consolidated public web server, firewalls in front of community and local area networks; managed anti-virus and computer security baselines. The Regional Computer Emergency Response Team - Europe designed these technical solutions. This holistic approach to INFOSEC or IA has received praise

from DoD and is rated as the strongest perimeter security in the Army by the Army Computer Emergency Response Team.

Recent events, such as successful malicious logic and virus attacks, showed that we all aren't doing the computer security basics correctly.

It is critical to do all we can to secure the networks against computer attacks, viruses, and other vulnerabilities. IA is a commander's program; but the whole team has a responsibility. To have a robust computer network defense that protects warfighters' information, we must work on the following IA fundamentals:

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, U.S. Army Europe's Defense in Depth preparedness and

prior planning/assessments met and exceeded the JTF Computer Network Operations requirements during heightened threats and provided deployed commanders with a reliable network. Our well-defined tactics,

*U.S. Army Europe IA
gets high marks in
perimeter security
from DoD*

techniques, and procedures were in place to meet the Combatant Commander's Information Operations Condition (INFOCON) measures and our scrutiny of access control lists ensured that Blue Force Tracking and logistical networks were not disrupted.

Editor's Note: Peters is with the G6, 5th Signal Command.

- *Commanders are responsible to assess security risks.*
- *Ensure your workforce is well trained.*
<https://www.uatp.hqusareur.army.mil>
- *Configure workstations, servers, and other network systems.* <https://iassure.usareur.army.mil>.
- *Conduct vulnerability scans. Policy is located at*
https://iassure.usareur.army.mil/downloads/download_file.aspx?fileID=465.
- *IAVA compliance is not negotiable. Employ resources, such as Harris STAT and Update EXPERT.*
- *IAVA is not the cure-all for network defenses. The answer is a holistic approach.*

German-American Women's Club Mannheim



Many happy faces after a successful charity event (left to right): Mrs. Erika Jaeger, German-American Women's Club Mannheim; Mr. Joachim Koeltzsch, Director, Mannheim Luisenpark; Mrs. Barbara Unnewisse, German President of the German-American Women's Club Mannheim; Mrs. Dayna Pollett; Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett, commander, 5th Signal Command; and Mrs. Rose Drew, American President of the German-American Women's Club Mannheim.

By Mr. Jozsef Wetzl

MANNHEIM, Germany -- The German-American Women's Club Mannheim hosted its first Spring Charity Concert at the Baumhain Auditorium at Luisenpark in Mannheim. Lord Mayor Gerhard Widder of Mannheim and Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett, commander, 5th Signal Command, were asked to be the official patrons for the event.

The Mannheim Police Music Corps was the featured band at the Sunday afternoon charity event that took the audience on a musical journey around the world. The band played to a house filled to capacity and was

rewarded with many standing ovations.

Considering the overwhelming success, the German-

German-American Clubs provide support to soldiers and families.

American Women's Club and the Mannheim Police Music Corps Mannheim are planning another concert in Luisenpark next spring.

Immediately following the concert the German and American Club Presidents, Mrs. Barbara

Unnewisse and Mrs. Rose Drew, presented checks to various German and American community organizations. The German-American club helps build closer ties and friendships. It also puts money back into our community to support our soldiers and families.

During this event the German-American Club presented 38,000 Euros to be shared evenly between the German-American communities.

Editor's Note: Wetzl is the political advisor for 5th Signal Command.

Memorial Day - Epinal

By Mr. Jozsef Wetzl

EPINAL, France -- Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett, commanding general, 5th Signal Command, delivered the memorial address at the American Cemetery in Epinal, France, this Memorial Day.

The official party of dignitaries was headed by Monsieur Christian Poncelet, President of the French Senate; and Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett.

The French Army Band of the 1st Infantry Regiment rendered honors to the nations by playing the "Marseillaise" and the "Star Spangled Banner."

Mr. Christopher Davis, U.S. Consul General from Strasbourg, read a proclamation by U.S. President

George W. Bush on the occasion of Memorial Day 2003.

Monsieur Francois Picoche, Mayor of Dinoze; and Monsieur Benoit Jourdain, Deputy Mayor of Epinal, were the first to speak, in which they underlined the traditional friendship between France and the United States. Both emphasized that the people of the Vosges Mountains will not forget what they owe to their allies of 1917 and their liberators of 1944. "Under no circumstances should differences interfere with the close ties that unite us," said Jourdain

Pollett began his speech with welcoming the French dignitaries in French, and then he continued. "We especially honor the 5,250 Americans buried here in Epinal, who fell in war that freed France and much of Europe

from grinding tyranny. The Americans we honor today loved the ideals and values upon which both our nations were founded and they have made the ultimate sacrifice." Pollett expressed what many of those in attendance felt in this awe-inspiring place, where the remains of U.S. servicemen and women are interred.

The 48-acre Epinal American Cemetery, is one of fourteen permanent American World War II cemeteries constructed on foreign soil. The site was liberated on September 21, 1944 by the U.S. 45th Infantry Division.

In closing, Pollett thanked all for taking time for the event to honor our fallen soldiers. "May the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country live forever in our memories. And may we honor them by doing everything we can to protect freedom for future generations, whenever, and wherever it is threatened," said Pollett.

Poncelet, president of the French Senate, in his speech said to not analyze the moment but to recall our sacred historical ties. "They unite our two countries and bring our two peoples together - these ties are indestructible, like blood ties," he said.

Immediately following the speeches, the official wreath-laying ceremony began, with some of the distinguished guests and delegations placing more than 25 floral wreaths with red, white, and blue, sashes in honor of the soldiers who fell in combat.

At the end of the ceremony, school children from the towns of Dinoze and St. Laurent placed flowers at each of the headstones precisely aligned against the immaculately maintained, emerald-green lawn.



Photo by Sgt. Lawrence Taylor

The official party arrives (left to right): Deputy Mayor of Epinal Monsieur Jourdain, Mayor of Dinozé Monsieur Picoche, French Army Major General Dupré, Prefect of the Vosges Region Monsieur Reiller, President of the French Senate Monsieur Poncelet, Commander 5th Signal Command Brig. Gen. Pollett, U.S. Consul General from Strasbourg Mr. Davis, American Battle Monuments Commission European Region Brig. Gen. (ret.) Leszczynski and Superintendent of the American Cemetery in Epinal Mr. Prieur.

The Army's Retention Program Changes

By Sgt. 1st Class Sean Milhauser

The Army's retention program has placed stronger emphasis on two key areas: moderation and quality. Last fiscal year the Army saw an unprecedented success in both retention and recruiting, which has not happened in several years. Also, the Army continues to have challenges balancing the enlisted force for critically short and over-strength military occupational specialties (MOSs). For these reasons there are several important changes to balance the force, and ensure commanders stress that only the best, highest quality soldiers will have the privilege of reenlistment. Some of these changes are:

* HQDA has placed stricter guidelines on soldiers who fall within their 90-day window, requiring an approved waiver as an exception to policy to the first general officer or general court-martial convening authority (GCMCA), whichever is the most direct line to the soldier.

* Soldiers who "migrate" into their reenlistment window with a reenlistment code other than "10" are ineligible to reenlist without an approval from the GCMCA. The soldier's commander must provide strong endorsements stating reason(s) why the soldier should be allowed the privilege to reenlist.

* Until recently, soldiers in the mid-career category were not allowed to reenlist for a duty station in CONUS. This policy has been changed to allow soldiers stationed OCONUS to reenlist for CONUS station of choice option.

* Soldiers who signed a declaration of continued service statement (DCSS) or have a local bar to reenlistment may apply for voluntary separation under Chapter 16-5 of AR 635-200. Soldiers, who elect to do this will not receive separation pay.

* Soldiers serving in over-strength MOS will be restricted to retraining as a condition to reenlistment. These soldiers should reenlist

into an MOS that is under-strength to help shape the enlisted force. The current "In/Out Calls", available on PERSCOM Online, detail each enlisted MOS and its current strength.

* Career counselors and retention NCOs may no longer contact a soldier's branch manager to assist with assignments. However, this does not stop soldiers or their leaders from contacting their appropriate branch to manage their own assignments.

For soldiers involved in their own career, these changes are hardly noticeable. Leaders should focus on identifying soldiers who are not strong candidates for future service; they should help their highest quality soldiers in making sensible career choices that benefit them and the Army, and encourage those in over-strength MOSs to seek new career paths. Precision Management of the Army's Retention Program is the key to success in maintaining a ready Army filled with high-quality soldiers.

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Mr. Don Franklin
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Combined Endeavor 2003 in Full Swing

On a hilltop above Baumholder, Germany, flags representing more than 35 nations snapped in the wind as the 9th Annual Combined Endeavor workshop got underway, May 8, 2003. The yearly U.S. European Command sponsored event is designed to bring NATO and Partnership for Peace nations together to plan and execute as well as to identify and document communications and information system (CIS) interoperability between these nations' strategic and tactical communications systems.

"Interoperability is the result of hard work," said Lt. Col. James Hogle, CE-03 exercise director. "It's

builds on the CIS capabilities documented and lessons learned from previous years' exercises.

The near-term goals were to test and document CIS interoperability, explore and resolve management issues within multinational networks, and build experience and knowledge in CIS planning among participating nations. Test messages in multiple languages were sent from tent to tent across Lager Aulendorf and to remote locations around the world.

The overall objective was to develop an integrated interoperability guide to assist planners in deploying nations' equipment to interoperate in a combined network. Once documented, deployment will be with known parameters and assurance, a

Germany has welcomed NATO and Partnership for Peace countries to its German army post.

More than 1,000 military and civilian personnel representing more than 35 nations were on location at Lager Aulendorf.

Participating nations include: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, United Kingdom, and the United States. Also participating was South-Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG) and a delegation from NATO.

Observers this year included a small delegation from South Africa looking at the possibility for future development of a similar exercise for Africa. Portugal was also an observer.

With the 10th Anniversary of Combined Endeavor just a year away, the "Way Ahead" is a move away from a switch-driven static, stovepipe, open environment, to an integrated secure, coalition WAN planning and testing network combined enterprise regional information exchange system (CENTRIXS) test environment.

Combined Endeavor is the premiere C4 Partnership for Peace program. Continued cooperation by the partnership will result in solutions to interoperability and the achievement of technical goals.

Editor's Note: Information taken from a CE-03 release.



Soldiers from the 7th Signal Brigade are briefed on communications equipment.

an outstanding opportunity for nations to improve their ability to support deployed forces, solve interoperability problems, and build relationships."

CE-03 provides a platform for nations to keep pace with technology and serves as a forum for the discussion of global CIS issues. Each annual interoperability exercise

tremendous achievement towards readiness.

The two-week exercise allowed for the development of low-cost solutions to interoperability shortfalls and the development of future procurement requirements.

Germany again hosted the event at Lager Aulendorf in Baumholder. This is the fifth year

Dragon Warriors Inducted in Sergeant Morales Club

**Story and photos by
William Triplett**

MANNHEIM, Germany -- The Sergeant Morales Club, formed in 1975, is a U.S. Army Europe club in which only noncommissioned officers stationed in U.S. Army Europe are eligible. Candidates go before a group of senior NCOs who judge them based on answers to many questions - mostly about taking care of soldiers.

Sergeant Morales is a non-commissioned officer who represents the best in leadership and personal concern for his soldiers. Sergeant Morales Club members must show these qualities for selection.



Sgt. 1st Class Steve M. Kramer

Sgt. 1st Class Steve M. Kramer said he never gave the Sgt. Morales Board much thought until he arrived here at 5th Signal Command.

"I came to the realization that someone saw leadership abilities in me, so I decided to give it a try."

When asked what he thought about the Board itself, Kramer has this to say: "It is the toughest board that I've experienced. But, looking back now that it is over, there were not any tough questions.

The board wanted to know how would you take care of your soldiers. The board is repeated several times, at different levels of command, before selecting a candidate.

"The second time around I focused on reading regulations from front to back, and understanding what they were telling us. I even placed myself in different situations to see how I could use a particular regulation," said Kramer.

Kramer said for anyone wanting to go before the Sgt. Morales Board, he would recommend it. "I strongly encourage working and preparing themselves in groups. Working with Sgt. 1st Class Derrick B. White increased our chances for success. When I was weak in areas that he was strong in, he helped me and vice versa.

"A list was compiled of about 50 regulations considered the most important. We not only memorized which regulation but also some specifics about it. Special attention was given to what you would do to take care of soldiers," Kramer said. "We made sure that we understood what they were and how to use them."

"1st Sgt. Carl VanAcken, Sgt. Major Williams, and Sgt. Major Smalls gave their utmost support. They let us know that they were there for us day or night."

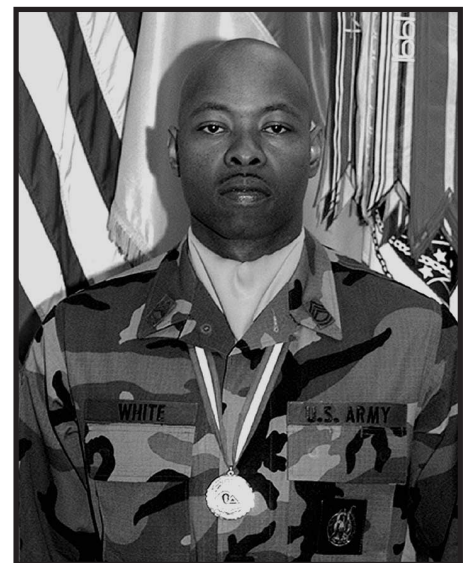
Kramer praised Mrs. White and Mrs. Kramer for their support. "They can probably recite the Sgt. Morales story better than Derrick or myself."

"It has always been one of my personal challenges because I heard that it was tough," said Sgt. 1st Class Derrick B. White. White said he also wanted to see what the board was like, and to see if he could withstand the challenges of the board.

"I consider myself an NCO that leads from the front. I can't think of a better way to show my soldiers than becoming a member of one of the Army's most prestigious clubs."

What about other soldiers who might want to join the Sergeant Morales Club?

"My recommendation to a soldier who is thinking about going to the board, he or she, must want it,



Sgt. 1st Class Derrick B. White

have the dedication, and set some time aside to work on study materials. Then challenge themselves by setting realistic goals.

"The support that I got from the people around me played just as important a role as all the studying and reading."

Army Editor of the Year

5th Signal Command employee receives top honors in Washington

By Mr. Arthur McQueen

WASHINGTON DC -- Susanne Wolf, a 5th Signal Command employee assigned to the U.S. Army Europe Office of the G6, has been named the 2002 Army Editor of the Year. According to her nomination, during the period of consideration, Ms. Wolf edited 178 separate publications, enabling soldiers and civilian employees throughout the European theater of operations to rely on Army in Europe publications to find clear and accurate guidance on how to accomplish their missions.

On receiving word that a member of his editorial staff would receive the Army's highest award for editing administrative publications, the Chief, Document Management Division, Mr. Dwayne Viergutz, said, "This is sensational news for Ms. Wolf. It's also great news for 5th Signal Command and for U.S. Army Europe Office." He went on to say, "In a world in which the demand for immediate access to information increases every day, the pressure on authors to get the word out is increasing at the same rate. There's little time for research,

coordination, or preparing final documents. As a result, directives may be immediately accessible, but garbled. Editors prevent that. It's therefore gratifying to know that the Secretary of the Army not only values the importance of editing administrative publications, but that he places the highest value on the editing being done on Army in Europe publications."

major Army command, a corps, or a division, and be responsible for editing administrative command publications, such as regulations and pamphlets. The nomination must provide before-and-after samples of edited work that show how the editor improved the accuracy and readability of draft publications. Foremost in judging is the Army's editorial maxim - to edit in



Photo by William Triplett

Ms. Susanne Wolf, winner of the Army Editor of the Year award for 2002.

The annual competition is sponsored by the United States Army Publishing Agency (USAPA). Once a year, the USAPA solicits nominations from throughout the Army. To be eligible, nominees must be assigned to a

a way that ensures the publication will meet the author's intended objectives.

Editor's Note: McQueen is with U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office.

NCO and Soldier of the Year

"228th Army Birthday Celebration"

By 5th Signal Command Staff

MANNHEIM, Germany. The 5th Signal Command kicked off their own Non Commissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year recognition ceremony on 13 June 2003; the first of many annual celebrations. This event not only recognized our NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. Mario Osti, and Soldier of the Year, Spc. Sonya Smith, but also celebrated the great service of all our soldiers and our Army's 228th Birthday.

The ceremony began with "I am a Sergeant," a presentation reflecting the service of our NCOs and soldiers in all the wars our Nation has fought. 'Freedom to All' reminded the audience how our men and women have fought and died, whenever and wherever called they have served. It went on to highlight that our American fighting men and women are volunteers serving to preserve our Nation's freedom. The ceremony honored those who have fought and died for that freedom, then transitioned to honor outstanding current soldiers who epitomize the same dedication and values.

Smith was recognized first as Soldier of the Year, and began by reciting, 'A Soldier,' honoring all soldiers. "I went where others feared to go, and did what others failed to do." Smith entered the Army in 1998, attending Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, graduating as a Satellite Communications Operator and Maintainer. She was pleasantly sur-

prised when the Commanding General, Brig.Gen. Carroll F. Pollett, informed her that she would be promoted to Sergeant on 1 July 2003.

Osti was recognized next as the Non Commissioned Officer of the Year. He began by reciting the NCO Creed, finishing with, "...we are professionals, Noncommissioned

being recognized for their work and dedication during the board process but for their character, duty and sacrifice as individuals and as NCO and Soldier! Both Osti and Smith exemplify the American soldier and leader and the standard of excellence for others to follow. These two sacrificed time every day to be better professionals and to take care of their soldiers. Both will represent 5th Signal Command at NETCOM the end of June.



From left to right: Brig. Gen. Pollett, Spc. Smith, and Command Sgt. Maj. Donna K. Mitchell, command sergeant major, 5th Signal Command.

Officers, Leaders!" Osti entered the Army in 1996 as a Missile Launch Rocket Operator and transitioned to the Signal Corps as an Information Systems Operator and Analyst in 2002.

These two outstanding individuals reflect the excellence of the 5th Signal Command. Their hard work and dedication have shown through with their endurance and perseverance in this strenuous process of monthly, quarterly and annual boards at various levels of command. The real story however is that these fine individuals are not

The ceremony continued to emphasize the theme of the traditions and culture of being a soldier with, "Some Gave All," sung by Sgt. Charles Harper, U.S. Army Europe Chorus,

*All gave some and some gave all.
Some stood through for the red,
white and blue,
and some had to fall.
And if you ever think of me,
think of all your liberties,
and recall,
some gave all.*

Continued on page 54

Signal soldier at the top of the class

"Former 7th Signal Brigade soldier shines at OCS"

News release from 7th Signal Brigade

A former 7th Signal Brigade soldier graduated Oct. 17 from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. His outstanding performance did not go unnoticed. Out of 130 students, 2nd Lt. Mickey Pletcher was selected as the Distinguished Honor Graduate, as well as the Distinguished Leadership Graduate, and received the Jess Walls Achievement Award.

Pletcher, a former platoon sergeant with Company A, 72nd Signal Battalion, was branch selected by the Signal Corps for OCS.

"He's an outstanding soldier," said Capt. Robert Purtle, his former company commander. "He was an excellent trainer and mentor

and he set the right example for young soldiers."

Pletcher was also one of the leaders who helped stand up the 509th Signal Battalion in Vicenza, Italy. When the battalion was forming, he volunteered for the assignment.

Purtle pinned the gold bars on Pletcher at the graduation ceremony and said his former platoon sergeant's accomplishment at OCS was "no small feat."

"This signal soldier excelled in an environment filled with the best, brightest and most experienced noncommissioned officers and soldiers the Army has to offer. His leadership abilities were assessed in a demanding environment using an Infantry assessment model. Pletcher rose to the top," he said.

The mission of OCS is to train and evaluate selected personnel in the fundamentals of leadership and basic military skills. The demanding 14-week course evaluates leadership abilities, instills the Army professional ethic and commissions those who qualify as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army, the Army National Guard, or the U.S. Army Reserve. Selection to attend the OCS program does not guarantee successful completion and commissioning. Each officer candidate must earn commissioning by demonstrating the requisite leadership skills necessary to succeed as an officer.

"The Army made the right choice in selecting Pletcher. He will make countless contributions to the development of soldiers, NCOs and officers throughout the remainder of his career. He truly leads by example. The challenge is to find the next 2nd Lt. Pletcher," said Purtle.

Pletcher is currently attending the Signal Officer's Basic Course at Fort Gordon, Ga.

"Personal Force Protection"

continued from page 41

ing of scheduled demonstrations. Also, if you are cleared for Top Secret SCI, you must see your supporting Special Security Office (SSO) before your travel.

So before you board a plane, train, automobile, or moped (for those so inclined), first research your destination and its security posture. Once you've arrived, keep a low profile but high vigilance.... And enjoy your trip!

Editor's note: Moffitt is with the G2, 5th Signal Command.

Here are a few civilian emergency telephone numbers in countries where most of us do our traveling in Europe:

	Fire	Medical	Police
Belgium	100	100	101
Germany	112	110	110
Italy	115	--	112
Netherlands	112	112	112

U.S. State Department Bureau of Consular Affairs,
http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html.

U.S. Army, Europe Office of the Provost Marshal's Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program (SNAP), www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/SNAP.htm

EUCOM Force Protection and Personal Safety Measures,
<http://www.eucom.mil/command/safetymeasures.htm>

Department of the Army - U.S. Army Europe Awards

**The Chief of Staff of the Army
Award for Maintenance
Excellence (2002)**

***TDA Units (Large Category)
RUNNER-UP:***
52nd Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal
Battalion

**The Commanding General, U.S.
Army Europe Incentive Awards**

Off-Duty Safety and Health

Mr. James E. Williams, 52nd
Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal
Brigade

Outstanding Contribution to Information Management

Mr. Gary Miller, 5th Signal
Command, G6

Length of Service Recognition 60 years

Mr. Edward L. Walsh, 43rd Signal
Battalion

"NCO and Soldier of the Year"

continued from page 52

Pollett, in recognition of Smith and Osti's dedication and leadership, reminded the audience that each and every soldier had without reservation raised their right hand

and sworn the oath of enlistment to defend our constitution, bear true faith and allegiance and obey those appointed over us. He stated, "We are soldiers always!"

At the end of the NCO and Soldier recognitions, 5th Signal

Command completed the ceremony by celebrating the Army's 228th Birthday. Pollett challenged us to not forget those who had gone before us and made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, and given us the opportunity to wear the uniform of the United States Army. God Bless our Army and the United States of America...HOOAH!



*Top photo:
Staff Sgt. Osti,*

*Bottom photo:
5th Signal Command's NCOs.*

(All photos by Sgt. Jan Allende.)



NETCOM/9th Army Signal Command Supply Excellence Award

(Category A Level 1 (B), MTOE Company Level)

587th Signal Company, 52nd Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade

(Category A Level II (B), MTOE Battalion Level)

39th Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade

Herndon, Mark	5th Sig. Cmd.
Ingram, Susan	5th Sig. Cmd.
Porter, Bernard	5th Sig. Cmd.
Simons, Cy	2nd Sig. Bde.
Cardoso, Felix	2nd Sig. Bde.
Ochoa, Russell	2nd Sig. Bde.

Superior Civilian Service Award

Gannon, John	5th Sig. Cmd.
Jurutka, Edward	5th Sig. Cmd.
Viergutz, Dwayne	5th Sig. Cmd.
Sidwell, Greg	5th Sig. Cmd.
Howard, Scott	5th Sig. Cmd.
Wetzel, Jozsef	5th Sig. Cmd.
Teigland, Martin	5th Sig. Cmd.
Hoffecker, Thomas	5th Sig. Cmd.
Pray, Earl	5th Sig. Cmd.
Howard, William B.	5th Sig. Cmd.
Peters, Gerald	5th Sig. Cmd.
Marz, Richard	5th Sig. Cmd.
Lopez, Alice	5th Sig. Cmd.
Gray, James,	2nd Sig. Bde.

Meritorious Civilian Service Award

Riplinger, Jeffrey	5th Sig. Cmd.
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Length of Service Award (Years)

Carpenter, Malcolm	5th	40
Bruckmann, Christa	43rd	35
Themann, Rainer	43rd	35
Schmeiser, Jon	5th	30
Cain, Kyle	5th	30
Mackles, Roger	39th	30
Danko, Terry M.	5th	30
Hundler, Connie L.	5th	30
Burks, Elke	43rd	30
Lopez, Hector	43rd	30
Smith, Ulysses	43rd	30
Laymon, Kathy	5th	25
Holiday, Freya	5th	25
Keapproth, Margaret	5th	25
Delcroix, Chantal	39th	25
Teigland, Martin	5th	25
McHugh, Thomas	5th	25
Phillips, Eric W.	5th	25
Stewart, Robert B.	5th	25
Twomey, John J.	5th	25
Torris, John	43rd	25
Chew, Langford	52nd	25
Thomas, Stephani	102nd	25
Arechiga, Eddie R.	5th	20
Thomas, Bernicher L.	5th	20
Young, Robert E.	5th	20
Leapley, Linc E.	5th	20

Hohberger, Uwe	43rd	20
Lopez, Angel	43rd	20
Tupanjac, Thomas	43rd	20
Ebling, Andreas	43rd	20
Juergen, Jaeger	102nd	20
Taylor, Dorothy	52nd	20
Jasper, eginald	52nd	20
Coombs, Marvin	39th	20
Dath, Mauricette	39th	20
Burns, Monika	69th	20
Brown, Lauren	5th	20

2nd Signal Brigade Awards:

HHC 2nd Signal Brigade

Spc. Emizet, Jean-Rene-AAM
Staff Sgt. Cooper, Steven-ARCOM
Staff Sgt. Sanford, Ernest-ARCOM
Spc. Maloy, Stephen-AAM
Spc. Guerra, Ana-AAM
Staff Sgt. Turner, Terrance-ARCOM

39th Signal Battalion

Pfc. Serrano, Anthony-AAM
Sgt. Redden, Ophelia-ARCOM
Sgt. Cable, John-AAM
Spc. Adams, Jonathan-AAM
Staff Sgt. Ramos, Gerado -AAM
Staff Sgt. Harmon, Anthony-AAM
Staff Sgt. Donlow, Charles-AAM
Spc. Rodriguez, Louann-AAM

43rd Signal Battalion

Spc. Borth, Jacob-AAM
Spc. Saini, Bikramdeep-AAM
WO1 Walbroehl, Correll-MSM
Sgt. Foster, Larry-AAM, GCM
Sgt. Ambe, Leslie-GCM
Sgt. Smoke, Claudia-AAM
Staff Sgt. Maynard, David-AAM
Sgt. Martinez, Karina-AAM
Sgt. Morreale, Christopher-GCM
Spc. Freitag, Aron-AAM, GCM
Spc. Pexton, Daniel-GCM
Sgt. Cousins, Michael-ARCOM
Staff Sgt. Root, Valerie-GCM
Sgt. 1st Class Miller, Leo-GCM
Sgt. McCarty, Adam-AAM
Sgt. Allen, Karnita-ARCOM
Staff Sgt. Pemwell, Kindra-MSM
Spc. Burciaga, Laffit-AAM
Spc. Crisman, Aaron-ARCOM
Spc. Cheek, Felice-AAM
52nd Signal Battalion

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Hunt, Christopher	5th Sig. Cmd.
Keapproth, Margaret	5th Sig. Cmd.
Myers, Kurt	5th Sig. Cmd.
Crabtree, Michael	5th Sig. Cmd.
Molloy, Brendan	5th Sig. Cmd.
Lasher, Phillip E.	5th Sig. Cmd.
Price, Jane	5th Sig. Cmd.
Forsee, Craig	5th Sig. Cmd.
Grayson, John	5th Sig. Cmd.
Sossamon, Richard	43rd Sig. Bn.
Boyer, Michael	52nd Sig. Bn.
Nix, Janice	52nd Sig. Bn.
RosaVelez, Jesus	52nd Sig. Bn.
McCommons, Robert	52nd Sig. Bn.
Schroeder, Sigrid	69th Sig. Bn.
Santos, Antonio	69th Sig. Bn.

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Rife, James	5th Sig. Cmd.
Wages, Marvin	5th Sig. Cmd.
Meyer, James	5th Sig. Cmd.
Aquino, Gloria	5th Sig. Cmd.
Farley, Pamela	5th Sig. Cmd.
Schmeiser, Jon	5th Sig. Cmd.
Wise, Robert L.	5th Sig. Cmd.
McGannon, Charles	5th Sig. Cmd.
Hummel, Richard	5th Sig. Cmd.

Awards and Promotions

Sgt. 1st Class Stilley, Donald-ARCOM
 Sgt. Foster, Lausan-ARCOM
 Sgt. Holloway, Jeff-ARCOM
 Spc. Sachi, Thiessalyn-ARCOM
 Pfc. Boyer, Micah-AAM
 Sgt. Busko, Anthony-AAM
 Sgt. 1st Class Collette, Kenneth-AAM
 Sgt. Dollman, Gary-AAM
 Sgt. Flores, Carlos-AAM
 Spc. Henderson, Edward-AAM
 Spc. Humphries, Bridget-AAM
 Spc. Miars, Angela-AAM
 Spc. Riggs, William-AAM
 Spc. Rose, David-AAM
 Spc. Shepherd, Martha-AAM
 Sgt. Williams, Robert-AAM, MOVSM
 Spc. Wilson, Bradley-AAM
 Sgt. Dollman, Gary-MOVSM

69th Signal Battalion

Sgt. Brown, Lamonte-ARCOM
 Sgt. Pope, Nailo-AAM

102nd Signal Battalion

Sgt. 1st Class Jarrell, Celeste-AAM
 Staff Sgt. Spears, Monty-ARCOM
 Staff Sgt. McCrary, Paul-ARCOM
 Sgt. Olaegbe, Ayankemi-ARCOM
 Sgt. Garner, Michael-ARCOM
 Sgt. Franks, Dennis-ARCOM

PROMOTIONS TO:

HHC 2nd Signal Brigade

-No promotions during this period.

39th Signal Battalion

PV2 Richardson, Scott
 PV2 Moore, Adan
 Spc. Becker, Bret
 Spc. Votaw, Nicholas
 Spc. Aguirre, Hector
 Pfc. Hatfield, Cory
 Capt. Kim, Rustie
 Pfc. Karst, Brian

43rd Signal Battalion

Sgt. Cloyd, Greg
 PV2 Lozada, Yolanda
 PV2 Pashia, Stephanie
 Spc. Bryant, Erica
 Spc. Scott, Kahmelah
 Cpl. Berry, Jennifer
 Spc. Zampikos, Nicole

Sgt. 1st Class Honts, Glynn
 CW2 Johnson, Donzell

52nd Signal Battalion

Spc. Smith, Albert
 Staff Sgt. Bree, David
 Sgt. Buie, Brian
 Sgt. Hagan, Shannon
 Spc. Keheian, Jacob
 Sgt. Larson, Kathleen
 Pfc. Sprague, Zachary
 Spc. Holtz, Charles
 Spc. Boyer, Micah
 Spc. Wilson, Luke
 PV2 Kennedy, Randie
 PV2 McCarly, Tiffany
 Spc. Alinovi, Joshua
 Sgt. Ross, Jennifer
 Staff Sgt. Hinojos, Antonio
 Sgt. Cervantes, Jose
 Spc. Lee, Carla
 Sgt. White, Roger
 Spc. Thomas, Templar

69th Signal Battalion

-No Promotions for this Period.

102nd Signal Battalion

Spc. AcQuah, Michael
 Sgt. Ayres, James
 Spc. Cherney, Melanie
 Pfc. Dockery, Amanda
 Capt. Gonzales, Christopher

Military Schools:

HHC 2nd Signal Brigade

Spc. Maloy, Stephen-PLDC

39th Signal Battalion

Sgt. Yelle, Benjamin-PLDC
 Staff Sgt. Wright, Derrick-BNCOC

43rd Signal Battalion

Sgt. Cloyd, Gregg-PLDC
 Spc. Berry, Jenifer-PLDC
 Spc. Robles, Jose-PLDC
 Spc. Hude, Jaime-PLDC

52nd Signal Battalion

Spc. Sachi, Thiessalyn-PLDC
 Sgt. Larson, Kathleen-PLDC
 Sgt. Cervantes, Jose-PLDC
 Spc. Lopes, Tony-PLDC

Sgt. White, Roger-PLDC
 Spc. Settle, Scheryl-PLDC
 Spc. Zeigler, Daniel-PLDC
 Sgt. Hagan, Shannon-PLDC
 Spc. Jones, Kendra-PLDC
 Spc. Rivera-Perez-PLDC

69th Signal Battalion

-No Schools attended this period

102nd Signal Battalion

Sgt. Ayres, James-PLDC
 Staff Sgt. Hamlin, David-BNCOC

7th Signal Brigade Awards:

Col. Lawrence, Susan S. - LOM

44th Signal Battalion

Spc. Starcher, Joseph - AAM
 Staff Sgt. Deguzman, Rafael - AAM
 Pvt. Romero, Dana - AAM
 Staff Sgt. Williams, Renetta - AAM
 Staff Sgt. Olympio, Mawuenam - AAM
 Staff Sgt. Tucker, Theresa - AAM
 Spc. McGruder, Travis - AAM
 Staff Sgt. Norton, Grover - AAM
 Sgt. Walton, Lewis - AAM
 Sgt. Lamereaux, James - AAM
 Sgt. Buenavente, Eric - AAM
 Staff Sgt. McKay, Jennifer - AAM
 Pfc. Blake, Andrea - AAM
 Sgt. Johnson, Jerry - AAM
 Sgt. Vasquez, Douglas - AAM
 Pvt. Nichols, April - AAM
 Staff Sgt. Shadeed, Sherill - AAM
 Sgt. Malinoski, Eugene - AAM
 Sgt. Foster, David - AAM
 Spc. Stroud, Tyrone - AAM
 Sgt. Itturriaga, Mayra - AAM
 Spc. Jones, Eddie - AAM
 Spc. Navarro, Tony - AAM
 Sgt. Simmons, Latysha - ARCOMS
 Sgt. Davis, Chad - ARCOMS
 Sgt. 1st Class Breckenridge, Thomas - ARCOMS
 Sgt. 1st Class Abad, Javier - ARCOMS
 Sgt. Jones, Brad - ARCOMS
 Capt. Frazer, Carl - MSM
 Capt. Magnotto, Veronica - MSM

PROMOTIONS TO:

AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS

1st Lt. Rhoden, Barret
 1st Lt. Lockhart, Micheal
 1st Lt. Hayes, Jeremy
 1st Lt. Santos, Pete
 1st Lt. Lungren, Mary
 1st Lt. Esparza, Vic
 Sgt. Wilson, James
 Sgt. Lopez, Michael
 Sgt. Hardy, Difolisicia
 Sgt. Jones, Brian
 Sgt. Azoro, Veronica
 Sgt. Aldana, Robert
 Sgt. Munoz, Omar
 Sgt. Carson, Anna
 Staff Sgt. Wallace, Matthew
 Staff Sgt. Swenson, Jonathan
 Staff Sgt. Trahan, Eric
 Sgt. 1st Class Robert, Curtis

Military Schools:

Staff Sgt. Williams, Kieth - ANCO
 Sgt. 1st Class Womble, Charles - ANCO
 Sgt. 1st Class Pezoli, Leo - ANCO
 Staff Sgt. Holobowicz, Lance - BNCO
 Sgt. Boyd, David - BNCO

Staff Sgt. Irwin, Harold B. - BNCO
 Staff Sgt. Shadeed, Sherill - BNCO
 Sgt. Gray, Ronnie - BNCO
 Staff Sgt. Mckay, Jennifer - BNCO
 Spc. Munoz, Roger - PLDC
 Spc. Phillips, Elmer - PLDC
 Spc. White, Jacqueline - PLDC
 Spc. Jones, Brian - PLDC
 Sgt. Azoro, Veronica - PLDC
 Spc. Fortner, Rocky - PLDC
 Spc. Wilson, James - PLDC
 Spc. Carson, Ann'na - PLDC
 Sgt. Lopez, Michael - PLDC
 Spc. Mahan, Timothy - PLDC

HHC 5th Signal Command Military Awards:

Maj.Gen. Quagliotti, Marilyn A. - DSM
 Col. Ellis, Bryan - LOM
 Col. Thompson, Michael - LOM
 Col. Chamberlain, Brooks - LOM
 1st Lt. Williams, Tracy - AAM
 Spc. Redner, Kateri S. - AAM
 Sgt. Quinones, Heather - AAM
 Sgt. O'leary, Eric J. - AAM
 Sgt. Randall, Najeema - AAM
 Spc. Mcclendon, Clyde - AAM

Spc. Kifer, Richard A. - AAM
 Spc. Randall, Najeema T. - AAM
 Cpl. Alvarado, Erica S. - AAM
 Sgt. Alvarado, Erica S. - ARCOM
 Spc. Bigos, Sophia Y. - ARCOM
 Maj. Stone, Steven W. - ARCOM
 Sgt. Bainum, Christopher - ARCOM
 Master Sgt. Vinson, Troy L. - ARCOM
 Cpl. Kohlmann, Sarah - ARCOM
 Sgt. 1st Class Stephens, Glenn R. - MSM
 Sgt. 1st Class Kramer, Steven M. - MSM
 Master Sgt. Allen, Earl B. - MSM
 Sgt. Maj. Peck, Russell W. - MSM
 Sgt. 1st Class Dimitrof-Bass, Anita - MSM
 Sgt. Maj. Robinson, Alexander - MSM

PROMOTIONS TO:

Sgt. Lonnie A. Brock II
 Sgt. Kevin J. Poe
 Sgt. Najeema Randall
 Sgt. 1st Class Belliveau, Brett



Mr. Edward L. Walsh, receives 60-year award from Lt. Col. Lewis C. Naumchik, commander, 43rd Signal Battalion.





